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INSIDE

NATION

President Obama bestows the Medal of Honor on an Afghanistan war veteran. ➤ PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE

Zurich begins an experiment with drive-in 'sex boxes' for its prostitutes. ➤ PAGE 19

Over 100 road cuts await repairs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

More than 100 portions of CNMI streets and roads are still waiting for repairs, some of them long after "government agencies" cut into them or trenched them as part of economic and development projects, the Department of Public Works and House members said yesterday.

DPW said the current road cutting conditions and enforcement challenges pose safety hazards.

Future federal funds are also in jeopardy over the CNMI's non-compliance with federal rules on the islands' respon-

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Settlement conference set in Saipan Air lawsuit

U.S. District Court Senior Judge Alex R. Munson set yesterday a settlement conference for Nov. 7, 2013, in Saipan Air Inc.'s $50-million racketeering lawsuit against three executives of Swift Air LLC. Munson directed representatives and lawyers for each party to attend the conference in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Munson

The judge said the parties are invited, but not required, to submit a confidential statement.

See SETTLEMENT on Page 4

BARELY A MONTH BEFORE DEADLINE

House rejects Senate budget version

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Administration hopes 11th hour passage could be avoided

As expected, the House of Representatives rejected yesterday afternoon the Senate version of a $123.4-million budget bill over yet another centralized government utility account of $6.06 million, authorizing the governor to hire 75 extra employees instead of only 25, and a $200,000 cut in tourism funding in fiscal year 2014, among other things

House floor leader Ralph Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) motion to reject the Senate substitute budget bill got 17 "yes" votes and a lone "no" vote from Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) at 4:17pm.

Two members were absent.

It is now up to a six-member conference committee—three each from the House and Senate—to hash out the budget differences between the two chambers.

If no new budget is passed and signed into law by Sept. 30, the government runs the risk of another shutdown starting on Oct. 1.

The Inos administration, meanwhile, is hoping the conference com-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), left, and Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), second from left, review documents, while Reps. Richard Seman (R-Saipan) and Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), right, confer during a short session recess on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. The House rejected both the Senate substitute versions of the fiscal year 2014 budget and electronic gaming bills, paving the way for the creation of a conference committee.

Guam-born Hawaiian may be next OIA assistant secretary

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam-born Hawaiian Esther Kiaaina may be the next U.S. Interior assistant secretary for insular affairs. *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday that she's the only one being vetted by the White House for the post, at least as of this time.

Kiaaina, 50, is currently deputy director of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, and is formerly a Democratic candidate for Congress to represent Hawaii's 2nd congressional district.

If everything goes smoothly, Kiaaina may be the permanent replacement for Tony Babauta, a native of Guam.

Kiaaina

Babauta resigned on Feb. 1 this year amidst grants and travel investigations. At the time, Babauta told the Interior secretary that he believes his work "improved the Office of Insular Affairs."

Kiaaina was born in Guam to Hawaiian parents. Her parents left Hawaii when her father was stationed in Guam while serving in the U.S. Navy.

She moved to Oahu in 1978. She graduated from Kamehameha Schools in 1981 and received her bachelor's degree in international relations and political science from the University of Southern California. She attended George Washington University to receive her J.D. and

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King wants change of venue in trial of murder suspect. PAGE 3
Alleged victim, mother testify in trial of ex-lawmaker. PAGE 6

Local

House shoots down Senate-amended electronic gaming bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Besides rejecting the Senate's substitute version of a fiscal year 2014 budget bill, the House of Representatives also shot down yesterday afternoon the Senate version of an electronic gaming bill, mainly over a lack of provision earmarking gaming proceeds.

Fourteen House members voted "yes," while four voted "no" to reject the Senate version of the electronic gaming bill. Two were absent.

The revenue-generating bill amends the definition of gambling device to exclude electronic gaming machines.

These machines will be installed only at Saipan hotels with at least 100 rooms or those attached to a golf course.

And like the $123.4 million budget measure, the electronic gaming bill will now be in the hands of conference committee for a compromise version.

At the session, Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said when he introduced the electronic gaming bill in April, his intention was to earmark practically everything to the NMI Retirement Fund to prolong its lifespan

However, Sablan said, recent events—specifically a Retirement Fund settlement agreement that includes a 25 percent deferment of retirees' pension—require the Legislature to come up with revenue-generating bills to pay the deferred pension.

"I ask that we reject [the Senate substitute] and look at the earmarking of gaming proceeds," he said.

The original House bill only earmarks business license fees.

The Senate version of the bill earmarks portions of the business license fees to the Retirement Fund, the 25 percent deferred pension account, and to Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) asked his fellow House members to consider the Senate's proposal to impose a $10,000 license fee per electronic gaming machine over the House's proposal of $2,500 per machine or 10 percent of net gaming proceeds.

Yumul said a $2,500 annual license fee for 250 electronic gaming machines, for example, will only generate $625,000 a year, an amount he described as "very insignificant."

"Let's not shortchange ourselves," Yumul said.

If the license fee is $10,000, the government would collect $2.5 million in license fees annually.

Yumul said the Legislature should not allow investors to come in "practically for free," especially if there is a need to generate revenue for the Retirement Fund and public services such as health.

Sablan, in response to Yumul's concerns during the session, said he's not suggesting that the House reject the bill because of the Senate's proposed higher license fees, but mainly because of a lack of provision earmarking gaming proceeds.

Floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) echoed Yumul's statement for the bill to be fixed and improved on in conference.

When Demapan made a motion to reject House Bill 18-51, House Draft 4, Senate Substitute 1, the vote was 14 "yes" and four "no."

The four who voted "no" to rejecting the Senate version were Yumul, Rep. John Paul Sablan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), and vice speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), who has been consistent in opposing any form of gambling.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said the conferees for the electronic gaming bill will be named at a later date.

If this bill becomes law, it will allow the Saipan operation of electronic table games such as poker, roulette, blackjack, craps, big wheel, slot machines, baccarat, pai gow and sic bo, and their variations.

A separate House bill seeking to allow casino gaming on Saipan remains at the Senate.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joeten-Kiyu Public Library volunteers pose with giant book mockups and library card they made last week.

JKPL volunteers 'super-size' books

Volunteers at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library are making the most of their summer break by doing all sorts of helpful things at the state library. Their latest endeavor called for "super-sizing" books and even a library card for the JKPL's display.

Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi said with the end of the 2013 "Dig Into Reading" Summer Program early this month, their volunteers had more idle time so she decided to put them to work.

Last week, JKPL volunteers Jarley Blanca, Merley Fernandez, Mariebell Aldan, and Abby Racoma put their creative minds together and made larger-than-life mockups of books like *Harcourt Science*, *Catching Fire*, and *The Cat In The Hat*. They also super-sized a JKPL library card, which like the three books were all made by hand.

Naputi said that much of the credit for the future displays of JKPL goes to Racoma, who she said is the acknowledged leader of the group and the one who designed the mockups. The 16-year-old goes to Saipan Southern High School.

Blanca, 16, also from SSHS, said she was primarily tasked to making the giant library card. She said she was able to finish it in a day. Blanca only started volunteering at JKPL this summer.

Fernandez said she helped Racoma make the layouts for the book mockups. The 16-year-old is a former Work Investment Agency trainee and, like Blanca, is a student from SSHS.

Another Manta Ray volunteering at JKPL is Mariebell Aldan. The 17-year-old said she was mainly in charge of drawing lines and plans to volunteer again next summer. ***(Mark Rabago)***

House also confirms PUC nominee

» A week after Senate confirmation

Bank of Guam's Dave B. Guerrero has become the newest member of the Public Utilities Commission following the House of Representatives' confirmation of his nomination yesterday afternoon. This comes almost a week after the Senate also confirmed him last Wednesday.

The governor's nominees to PUC require Senate and House confirmation.

At yesterday's session, House members debated whether or not to include a question-and-answer about Guerrero as part of a committee report on his nomination. In the end, members voted to use the material only as a reference.

By a vote of 18-0 with two absences, the House adopted the joint reports of the committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications recommending Guerrero's confirmation.

Adoption of the joint committee report essentially means the House confirmed Guerrero.

The newest PUC member is currently a Bank of Guam assistant vice president, and has been in banking and finance business since 2005 in California, New York, Guam, and the CNMI.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed him to serve as a PUC member on June 21.

PUC has regulatory oversight of all utilities entities in the CNMI including telecommunications, power, water, wastewater, and cable television. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

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King wants change of venue in trial of Romero murder suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Janet H. King has asked the Superior Court to appoint another expert, this time in the field of forensic pathology, to help her defend her client, Joseph A. Crisostomo, who is facing charges in the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero.

As this developed, King filed on Friday more motions, including a request to change the trial venue due to media coverage and community sentiment. She argued that because of the bad publicity in the case, her client won't get a fair and impartial trial on Saipan. She, however, did not indicate an alternate venue for the trial.

In her motion to appoint an expert, King asked the court to appoint as expert witness for the defense Dr. Joseph I. Cohen, a forensic pathologist and president of United Forensic Services based in California and New York.

Dr. Cohen, she said, agrees to a maximum pay of $4,800. She said she will apply for payment of additional fees, and, if necessary, transportation cost and lodging expenses if later required.

King pointed out that an expert in the field of forensic pathology is necessary to help the defense in order to fully evaluate the autopsy evidence and claims of the Commonwealth's own witness.

She noted that the evidence in this case includes an autopsy performed by the government's own forensic pathologist, Dr. Aurelio Espinola, who ruled that Romero's death "resulted from asphyxia due to ligature strangulation, a homicide."

In addition, King said, a rape test-kit was administered at the autopsy.

King expects Espinola to testify that Romero was beaten based on swollen eyes and pre-mortem hemorrhage of her eyes.

"In a first-degree murder prosecution, especially, in which autopsy and Dr. Espinola's testimony will be significant factors in the presentation of the evidence at trial, without the requested expert assistance, the defendant's defense would be gutted, resulting in prejudice," she said.

The lawyer said the autopsy evidence is beyond her scope of training and that Dr. Cohen's expert services are necessary to allow her to adequately represent Crisostomo at his trial.

In the motion for change of venue, King cited the enormous amount of publicity generated by the case, largely because murder rarely happens on Saipan.

"The media did not just report the facts. The media also gave opinions and implied the defendant's guilt," the lawyer said.

In particular, she said, the newspapers printed several statements by the Office of the Attorney General, specifically AG Joey San Nicolas himself and his chief prosecutor, pertaining to Crisostomo's guilt in the case.

"The defendant would not be able to receive a fair and impartial trial because of the printing and dissemination of these opinions," King said.

Earlier on Friday, King also asked the court to appoint an expert in forensic DNA analysis and another in cell phone forensics for Crisostomo's defense.

The court in April 2013 approved King's request to appoint two Guam lawyers as her co-counsel for Crisostomo.

Police arrested the 40-year-old Crisostomo on Feb. 22, 2013, for the killing of Romero, whose body was found at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012.

Prosecution wants to display Romero 'in life' photo at trial

»Prosecutor says photo retrieved from victim's purse at crime scene

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The "in life" photograph of murdered bartender Emerita Romero that authorities retrieved from her purse found at the crime scene.

The Office of the Attorney General has asked the Superior Court to allow the prosecution to display during its opening argument an "in life" photograph of murdered bartender Emerita Romero that was retrieved from her purse at the crime scene.

Assistant attorney general James B. McAllister said that Romero's identity is an element of each crime charged and the "in life" photograph will be necessary for many witnesses to identify her.

McAllister said that Romero's identity cannot be determined from crime scene photos due to decomposition.

This photograph, the prosecutor said, was retrieved from Romero's purse at the crime scene, further proving her identity through ownership of the purse.

Federal Bureau of Investigation agents found Romero's body at the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque on Feb. 7, 2012, two days after she was last seen boarding a car near her house in Garapan.

More than a year later, on Feb. 22, 2013, police arrested Joseph A. Crisostomo, the alleged driver of the car, on charges that he killed the bartender by strangling her.

In the government's motion to admit the photograph, McAllister said that even if the issue of identity or ownership of the purse is conceded by the defense, the photograph is still admissible based on common law authorities.

The prosecutor said that appellate courts have refused to find error when the prosecution displayed photographs of murder victims during opening argument.

"Here, the CNMI seeks to put a face on Romero's name in the opening argument. As with any homicide case, the prosecution bears the burden of proving crimes committed against the victim without the victim's testimony," McAllister said.

In efforts to do so, he said, the government seeks to display a single "in life" portrait of Romero during opening arguments.

McAllister said this portrait will likely be the only evidence that accurately depicts the victim's face and so the prosecution should be permitted to display this evidence.

Crisostomo, 40, is charged with, among other crimes, murder, kidnapping, and sexual assault. His jury trial will be on Oct. 15, 2013.

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NMC accused of illegal termination, breach of contract

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A lawyer representing Wil Maui, a former instructor at the Northern Marianas College, filed yesterday with the Board of Regents an appeal for his client, accusing the college of illegal termination and breach of contract.

Lawyer Mark B. Hanson, in a three-page document addressed to BOR chair Juan Lizama and NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., wants a hearing to be held on the case pursuant to the provisions of Commonwealth Administrative Procedures Act. If there's no existing employee appeals committee at the college, he wants such a panel to be created by the board.

Furthermore, Maui is seeking to obtain documents and issue subpoenas for testimony from NMC administration, faculty, and staff necessary to refute the allegations that are the basis for his termination.

Maui was issued a termination notice on Aug. 20, to take effect on Aug. 23, for alleged insubordination and refusal to do his assigned work.

"NMC has claimed that Mr. Maui's teaching assignments were revised by the college out of necessity, in order to retain accreditation and that this 'change in circumstances was outside of [NMC] control.' Ms. [Chavel] Green in her termination notice also suggests that NMC 'attempted to create a transition program that would have allowed [Maui] to remain in the classroom while taking courses to obtain the necessary credits,' though what classroom and what necessary credits are not detailed therein. According to Ms. Green, '[NMC] accreditors were unwilling to allow this.' Ms. Green did not provide further detail of this supposed 'transition period,'" states Hanson's appeal.

According to the lawyer, Maui disputes all of the assumptions and misrepresentations in the termination notice including false statement that Maui "refused to meet" with his immediate supervisor.

"Mr. Maui also respectfully submits that it was not insubordinate for him to demand that NMC perform its obligations under his current employment contract…not due to expire until Aug. 5, 2014," it states.

Hanson said NMC has "egregiously breached Section III.E of Maui's contract by requiring the instructor to teach new courses on less than 30 days' notice on the basis of pure falsehoods and patent fabrications, and importantly, without consent."

NMC, it added, breached Section VII.C of the contract by failing to provide Maui with at least seven days written notice of his termination. The individuals at NMC that have violated Maui's rights under the Constitution must be held accountable, according to Hanson.

"Mr. Maui's position is that NMC breached his contract by terminating him without cause. Mr. Maui intends to show that NMC's purported basis for his termination—"insubordination" and "refusal to do assigned work"—were solely attributable to Mr. Maui's refusal to abide by NMC's attempted unilateral modification of his contract, a unilateral modification itself prohibited by the contract," added the lawyer.

By appealing the termination decision and requesting a hearing, Hanson pointed out, Maui is exhausting his administrative remedies.

MAJOR PRIZE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delta Air Lines sales executive Chris Concepcion, left, presents a roundtrip ticket to the U.S. mainland to Docomo Pacific for the upcoming Docomo Pacific Golf Classic. The tournament will be held on Saturday, Aug. 31, at the Mariana Country Club.

SETTLEMENT

From Page 1

He said the statements shall not become part of the files of the case and shall not be used in preparing and conducting the settlement conference.

"Copies of the statement shall not be provided to the other parties in the case and statements will be destroyed at the conclusion of the settlement conference," Munson said.

He said the statements should include an outline of the facts of the case, major issues in dispute, remedy sought, and any other information useful to the judge in analyzing the factual and legal issues in the case.

Munson said settlement statements should be emailed to him by Oct. 25, 2013.

The jury trial will be on Nov. 13, 2013.

Saipan Air is suing Donald A. Stukes, Jeffrey Conry, Hank Robert, and 10 unnamed co-defendants for allegedly conspiring to fraudulently obtain money and other property from Saipan Air Inc.

Saipan Air is suing the defendants for fraud, violations of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, and unjust enrichment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BUDGET

From Page 1

mittee "will act swiftly to agree on and pass a budget."

"It is important to note that the governor would also need an opportunity to review whatever version gets passed by the Legislature. Thus it will be most prudent to pass a budget ahead of the deadline and not at the eleventh hour," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

House conferees

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) appointed Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) as House budget conferees shortly after yesterday's rejection of the Senate budget version.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) has yet to name the three Senate conferees as of yesterday. However, it is expected that Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) will lead the Senate team.

At the House session, the Ways and Means Committee cited the panel's major concerns about the Senate version of the budget bill "in no particular order."

Sablan said these include having government utility allotments placed under one central account again, and giving the governor authority to hire 75 full-time government employees when the governor already has reprogramming authority.

Sablan, main author of the original House budget bill, also said the panel is concerned about the Senate's removal of $200,000 from the Marianas Visitors Authority's budget at a time when the tourism industry needs funding to maintain and promote the islands.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos asked for 100 additional FTEs. The House gave him 25, while the Senate raised this to 75.

Conner, for his part, questioned an attached Schedule A in the Senate version that shows the government utility account as "zero."

"It is our responsibility to correct the mistake," he said.

Request

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) later asked the conferees to consider also funding homestead projects for the Northern Islands, if they have to compromise with the Senate on the use of $2 million in Department of Public Lands funding for homesteads on Rota and Tinian.

The House removed $2 million from the DPL budget for homestead projects and $229,000 for Rota utilities. The Senate reinstated these funding.

Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) told *Saipan Tribune* that she voted "no" to the House rejection of the Senate budget bill because of these very same issues.

"As you may be aware, I voted 'no' on the House budget version for extracting $290,000 for the First Senatorial District's utility account, which is not the municipality's debt. Also, for taking away $2 million from DPL funds for ongoing homestead developments on all three senatorial districts," Santos said.

Reps. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) and Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) were absent from the session. The speaker said they were "excused." The rest of the 17 members present voted "yes."

Meanwhile, Sablan said the House budget conferees will meet Thursday morning. He hopes the House and Senate conferees could meet as soon as possible as time is ticking.

Once the conferees come up with a compromise bill, the full Senate and House will still have to vote separately on the budget measure.

Besides passing and signing a $123.4 million budget for fiscal year 2014, the Inos administration and the Legislature also have to approve a supplemental budget to pump more money into the NMI Retirement Fund to meet the requirements of a tentatively approved settlement agreement.

OIA

From Page 1

Johns Hopkins SAIS to receive her master's degree.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), when sought for comment yesterday, said Kiaaina "certainly has the background and expertise to be considered for assistant secretary of Interior for insular affairs."

Sablan has been pushing for the nomination of a permanent assistant secretary as soon as possible.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has administrative responsibility for coordinating federal policy in the insular areas, including the CNMI.

"I do think that sufficient time has gone by for the While House to have vetted a candidate for the position of assistant secretary. And, as much as I appreciate the excellent job that acting assistant secretary Eileen Sobeck has done, I look forward to having a permanent, Senate-confirmed leader advocating island interests in the Department of the Interior," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sablan said he has known Kia'aina since his days working for Senator Daniel Inouye in the mid-1980s.

"She is highly competent, having been chief of staff for both Congressman Bob Underwood of Guam and Ed Case of Hawaii. And, as a Pacific Islander, Ms. Kia'aina is someone who is knowledgeable about our region and familiar with the Northern Mariana Islands," the delegate said.

He said any decision about presidential nominations is something the White House keeps to itself until an official announcement is made.

REPAIRS

From Page 1

sibility to maintain and manage designated routes, the department added.

DPW asked House members yesterday to pass a bill amending Public Law 5-41 to include government agencies among those required to secure road cutting permits from the department.

By a vote of 18-0, the House passed Rep. Larry Deleon Guerrero's (Ind-Saipan) House Bill 18-116 to help address DPW's concerns to make CNMI roads safer by requiring entities, including government agencies, to repair roads they have cut into or retrenched, and ensure that the CNMI continues to receive federal highway funds.

"Unfortunately, the biggest violator and biggest cause [of these road issues] are our government agencies," House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said at yesterday's session.

Other House members said the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is one of the leading agencies causing problems to these roads that have yet to be properly restored or repaired.

Sonya Pangelinan Dancoe, an engineer and DPW highway administrator, told House members "it is time" to amend PL 5-41 to help DPW effectively carry out its job of providing a safe, reliable, and efficient transportation system.

"It is the intent that if this [bill] is passed, DPW can effectively ensure compliance with road cutting requirements and policies," Dancoe told House members.

DPW Secretary Martin Sablan was also in the House chamber to drum up support for HB 18-116's passage.

Deleon Guerrero, chairman of the House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications, said in his HB 18-116 that economic development and population growth has partly resulted in streets and roads "being cut into or trenched to lay sewer, water pipes or repair leaks."

"The impacts are that the portion of the street or road that was excavated or trenched into is not properly restored to its original safe condition. [DPW] has identified more than 100 portions of streets and roads that are not properly restored or have not been repaired," he said.

He said in many cases, government agencies are responsible for many of the road cutting and trenching without proper restoration.

The bill now goes to the Senate for action.

Teacher shortage results in multiage classes for 3 schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the continuing shortage of teachers in public schools, three schools have opted to implement multiage classes beginning next week, which will allow them to combine students in different grade levels.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., disclosed yesterday that three schools—Tinian, Sinapalo, and Gregorio T. Camacho elementary schools—have so far confirmed enforcing the multiage classroom because of the lack of teachers.

Multiage classes are enforced because they are either so small or so big that they merit additional teachers, Sablan said.

For the Tinian school, grades 2 and 3 will be combined in one classroom, while also combining grades 4 and 5 students.

For Rota's Sinapalo school, multiage classes will take effect for grades 4 and 5, while GTC has to combine classes for its kindergarten and first grade as well as for grades 2 and 3.

"We have to implement multiage classes because we don't have the FTEs we needed," said Sablan, adding that all three schools are considered small schools and will have to be provided the teachers they need.

Another small school, Tanapag Elementary, was spared from multiage classes after its enrollment dropped this year to just 170.

To illustrate how a multiage classroom functions, Sablan explained that a multiage class may have 64 students (32 students each from Grade 2 and Grade 3 for example) that will receive instruction from only three teachers instead of four.

"Thirty-four students for second grade is just too much [ratio] because the board policy requires only 20:1. Since we don't have the FTE, we have to combine these grades to be able to continue providing them instruction," said Sablan.

Despite having the same teachers for both grades, curriculum instruction for each grade is different.

Sablan said that elementary teachers have been trained for multiage grouping, which allows them to be able to teach different grade levels at the same time. She is optimistic that this setting won't impact student learning.

"We seen our scores gone up actually and it is because our teachers came prepared and they worked hard for our students to learn," she said, adding that the implementation of multiage classes is only among the innovative ways for PSS to live within its means.

As to how long these multiage classes will stay, Sablan said that lifting this depends heavily on the budget that will be appropriated for PSS by the Legislature for fiscal year 2014.

"We have to combine these classes until we know what our budget looks like [next fiscal year]. I hope that the new budget will allow us to hire the additional teachers that we need," she said.

Class size

Once multiage classes are enforced in some schools, very high student-to-teacher ratio becomes inevitable in large schools, Sablan said.

She cited the expected large class sizes in big schools like Marianas High School with enrollment to date totaling 1,391; Hopwood Junior High has 1,166 so far; Garapan Elementary School has 821 as of this week; William S. Reyes Elementary has 733; and Saipan Southern High School, 773.

In an interview with Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas yesterday, he confirmed that he will have classes with up to 41 students this school year.

According to Sablan, GES has also reported a high ratio of up to 31 students in a class.

BOE policy mandates a ratio of 20:1 for elementary schools.

BEH, DPW approve school campuses' readiness

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Class opening in public schools is expected to go as scheduled next week following disclosure yesterday that everything is set for the start of the new school year, including the necessary inspections from government agencies.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., told the Board of Education yesterday that the Bureau of Environmental Health has completed its health and sanitation tests on all 19 campuses, while the Department of Public Works has also finished its inspection of school facilities.

Public schools undergo these inspections each year to determine their readiness for the school year opening. Failure to comply with standards and requirements result in the delay in the start of classes, which has happened in the past.

"All our public schools have passed both the BEH sanitation test and the DPW inspection relative to facilities except that some schools have been asked to recharge their fire extinguishers and cover some electrical outlets," Sablan said.

Classes in public schools are set to start on Sept. 3.

Sablan said that schoolyards and lawns will also be ready within this week.

Orientations for parents and students have also been conducted in many schools, including at Kagman Elementary School and Chacha Oceanview Junior High, the two schools that will be reconfigured this year. Starting next week, KagES will be home to kindergarten to 5th grade students while Chacha Oceanview will be home to 6th to 8th graders. Chacha will also be renamed Chacha Oceanview Middle School, as part of Phase 1 of the Middle School Concept project.

Sablan also reported on the recent completion over the summer of various institutes and workshops, including the weeklong leadership institute for school administrators and program managers. She said 25 individuals within the system also signed up for the leadership course. This is offered to employees who want to become school principals.

Meantime, Marianas High School's performing arts class received a baby grand piano that students can use beginning this new school year. The equipment was a donation from DFS Galleria, according to Sablan.

30 buses, vans ready to transport students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System will open classes next week with "more than enough" number of buses and vans to transport thousands of students from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Jack Diaz, acting manager for the Pupil Transportation Department, and associate commissioner Glenn Muña told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that there are a total of 30 vehicles that will be servicing public school students starting Sept. 3.

For Saipan schools, PSS has 16 buses assigned to drop and pickup students from various villages. All these buses have 66-seat capacity and will each be manned by one driver. Eight vans for special education students will also be available on Saipan, of which three are 14-seaters while five are wheelchair lifters. Special education vans will each have one driver and a conductor assigned for every trip, or a total of 16 personnel for transporting students with special needs.

Rota and Tinian public schools, according to the two officials, will each have two buses and one van for special education students, for a total of six fleet altogether for the two islands.

Muña disclosed that for Saipan schools, PSS has three backup buses ready to replace existing fleets that will encounter emergency problems during operational hours.

With 15 bus drivers for Saipan schools, Muña said they are anticipating "no double trips" this school year. He described this as good news because all students will be on time for their classes.

To illustrate, Muña said that PSS has designated two buses for the San Roque areas. The first bus is assigned to pick up students while the other will drop them off after school hours.

To ensure the readiness of the Pupil Transportation Department for the new school year, Muña said all drivers have been recertified for defensive driving while continuing some other trainings related to their job.

Last school year, PSS transported about 3,000 students daily on three islands.

Besides the 15 bus drivers for Saipan schools, PSS has also six drivers for special education vans and six other conductors. Total routes this school year is 16.

'Only $40K left to maintain buses'

If there's one thing the Pupil Transportation Department is concerned about, it's the unfunded cost to maintain the school buses and the state-of-the-art bus depot in Lower Base, Diaz said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the balance of federal funds to maintain the fleet from last fiscal year amounts to just $30,000 to $40,000, which will have to be spread out the entire school year.

Since last year, PSS lost the opportunity to directly receive funding from the Federal Transportation Administration after the CNMI created the Commonwealth Office of Transportation Administration, which is now the direct authority on all FTA grants to the CNMI.

In terms of fuel, Diaz disclosed that PSS spends about $25,000 each month on fuel cost for three islands. This translates to about $300,000 a year for all fuel costs incurred by PSS.

Funding for fuel is expected to be drawn from the next fiscal year's budget, which remains pending at the Legislature.

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Alleged victim, mother testify in trial of ex-rep Juan Tenorio

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The prosecution began the jury trial of former lawmaker Juan Iguel Tenorio yesterday by calling in witnesses, including a 14-year-old girl that he allegedly sexually abused in 2010.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the Superior Court yesterday at 4:45pm, attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for the 64-year-old Tenorio, was still cross-examining the alleged victim.

The minor testified that she told her mother on Dec. 30, 2012, that Tenorio molested between May 2010 and December 2010.

The girl said that Tenorio first massaged her body and then touched her privates so she told him to stop. She said she then ran to the bedroom. She said Tenorio told her not to tell anyone.

"I'm tired of keeping it!" said the girl when asked by defense counsel Torres why it took her two years to tell her mother about the alleged incident.

The girl, however, admitted she could not remember some details of her statements during separate interviews with police detectives.

During a break in her testimony, the teary-eyed girl was seen hugging her mother in the courtroom.

Before the girl's testimony, assistant attorneys general Margo Brown and Chemere McField called the mother to the witness stand.

The mother testified that she was at the Light in the Sun Church in Gualo Rai on Dec. 30, 2012, when her daughter told her that she needs to talk to her. The mother said her daughter appeared scared and then started crying and told her that Tenorio touched her. She said her daughter is a very jolly person and it was the first time she saw her become very emotional.

"I was really shocked, crying and devastated that it happened to my child," said the mother, sobbing.

The mother said she and her daughter then approached their pastor and she told him what happened to her child.

The mother said she was very angry, but that she wanted to make sure that her anger would not affect her decision as she has to think for her family since Tenorio "is very well known."

The following day, the mother went to the police and reported the incident. She also later reported the matter to the Division of Youth Services and the Office of the Attorney General.

The mother said she became frustrated with some of the detectives who were initially assigned to look into the case because months passed by with no action or no progress.

She said Department of Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero later called her and assured that detective Peter Aldan will take care of the case.

"It was so painful because my daughter was telling me about what happened to her, but there's no action," she said.

The Office of the Attorney General soon filed the case against Tenorio.

Aldan, the government's first witness yesterday, testified, among other things, that on Jan. 29, 2013, DPS Commissioner Deleon Guerrero called him to handle the case.

Aldan said that when he interviewed the girl, she cried and appeared scared.

The trial is expected to continue today, Wednesday.

Tenorio is on trial on charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. He used to serve as Office of Personnel Management director.

Municipal Council wants update on 2011 job fair

Two years after the CNMI Department of Commerce held a job fair, the 12th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council wants to know whether any of the 900 or so applicants have been employed.

In an Aug. 26 letter to Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar and CNMI Department of Labor Secretary Gilbert San Nicolas, Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho asked for an update on the job fair that was funded through a $1-million grant from the Department of the Interior.

"Almost two years later, we have not seen any headline news about the real or lasting impact of the job fairs. For instance, how many of the 900 applicants have been hired or rejected. Of those hired, were they placed in job-appropriate categories that they chose or were they placed where they were deemed needed by the employer?"

Camacho also asked Igisomar and San Nicolas whether the two government agencies keep track of unemployment and underemployment data in the CNMI.

"What impact has this job fair contributed, if any, to the private workforce? In this regard, I respectfully request both the [departments] of Commerce and…Labor to provide reliable statistics and information on the sustainability of the 2011 job fairs and whether or not your respective departments will be sponsoring another job fair in 2013 and when."

Quoting *Saipan Tribune*'s Oct. 22, 2011, issue, Camacho said: "Our government leaders were understandably ecstatic that day too. For example, our governor was quoted: 'I'm happy that they're here to apply for jobs. But I'm also quite disturbed that they're here because they didn't have a job,' acting governor Eloy S. Inos told *Saipan Tribune* at the Department of Commerce's job expo held at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe."

Camacho also alluded to the optimism of Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, House Committee on Commerce and Tourism chair Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Commerce's Central Statistics Division director Ivan Blanco, and Commerce's staff David Maratita following the 2011 job fair.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, 822 applicants showed up for the job expo that sought to place qualified U.S. citizen or U.S.-eligible workers.

The job fair saw the participation of 30 employers: Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Aqua Resort Club, Hafa Adai Beach Hotel, Docomo, Moylan's Insurance, Triple J Enterprises, Star Marianas Inc., and MCV Broadband, among others. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Frank X. Solomon passes away

Frank X. Solomon, a consultant to the Prior Service Program and the first director of the Technical Assistance Program at the Office of Insular Affairs, passed away on Aug. 22 after a long illness.

Solomon worked with Prior Service Program funding for over 13 years and was primarily responsible for obtaining 13 grants totaling over $11 million to maintain a continuous stream of benefit payments to 2,000 beneficiaries in Micronesia and beyond. He had a deep affection for Micronesia and was dedicated to make sure these payments continued without interruption.

Solomon was involved in COMSAT arrangements and agreements for the installation of satellite earth stations in Micronesia in the early 1980s, which led the way to direct-dialing in the Pacific. He participated in resolving the Guam power pool agreement dispute with the Navy. Solomon completed a review of construction projects in Micronesia (with Army Corps and Navy OICC) that became a permanent OIA operations and maintenance program. Initially an Interior budget officer, Solomon helped develop financial management systems for the Freely Associated States from the Trust Territory system. As technical assistance director, he stationed two financial advisers in Micronesia.

Known for his wry sense of humor, Solomon maintained email contact until a couple of days before entering hospice care and his passing. ***(PR)***

Ukulele lessons moved to September

The 2013 Summer Ukulele Lessons at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library have been moved to September.

Children's Library associate Erlina Naputi said they decided to postpone the ukulele classes to allow students in both private and public schools to better transition themselves to the new school year.

So far, 20 students—10 beginners and 10 intermediate—have signed up for the twice-a-week ukulele lessons that will be conducted by Larry Lee.

The ukulele class was originally set from Aug. 13 to 29. Because of the postponement, JKPL is still accepting interested students willing to learn the string instrument.

The ukulele class is open to children 8 years or older and adults and encompasses eight hours. It costs $50 and will be held from 4pm to 5:30pm every Tuesday and Thursday.

Students who passed the second level of Lee's previous ukulele class will be able to register for the intermediate class, while new students or those who want to refresh their ukulele skills can register for the beginners' class.

Naputi said the ukulele class' minimum enrollment is 15 students but it can accommodate as much as 40. Registration is on a first-come, first-paid basis and deadline is on Sept. 11.

Students must provide their own ukuleles and a folder to hold music sheets (plastic sheet protectors and a three-ring binder are recommended). Those without instruments can also borrow one from the library for free.

Parents or guardians must also fill a liability waiver form on behalf of their participating children and must adhere to public library policies and procedures.

For more information about the 2013 summer ukulele class, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in Susupe or call 235-7316 or 235-7322-23, Fax 235-7550. ***(Mark Rabago)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-OPA-158

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2013 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

"SINGLE AUDIT OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT WITH A SEPARATE FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION (CHCC) FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2013"

THE SINGLE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXEPT HOLIDAYS.

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. DAVID BLAKE, OPA AUDIT MANAGER AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT AND WILL OT BE RETURNED TO THE PROPOSER.

/S/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-026

Capitol Hill Pressure Improvement and Waterline Replacement Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Capitol Hill Pressure Improvement and Waterline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The work consists of installation of new waterlines, cut and cap and tapping to existing waterlines in Capitol Hill Housing Blocks 1200 and 1300, Pohnpei Way, and Isa Drive; installation of new pressure reducing valves, gate valves and fire hydrants. The work is also inclusive of installation of new water lateral lines, reconnection of all existing water meters, asphalt paving restoration, etc. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package may be picked-up, upon receipt of payment from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $250.00 (non-refundable) at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 23, 2013** at 1:30 PM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.14, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-026, Capitol Hill Pressure Improvement and Waterline Replacement Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 12, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **August 26, 2013** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
San Jose Village, Tinian, MP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes

II. Public Comments[i]

III. Unfinished Business
- a. Clarification of Casino Key Employee definition for Licensing Purposes

IV. New Business
- a. TDHC Casino Employee License Applications

V. Executive Session[ii]

VI. Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters

VII. Adjournment

[i]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[ii]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

NMI JUDICIARY

National Center for State Courts human resources and business process consultants Mindy Masias and John Doerner, top row center, assemble together with CNMI Judiciary staff members as the on-site evaluation of the CNMI Judiciary's staffing needs and productivity commences.

NCSC consultants evaluate NMI Judiciary's efficiency

National Center of State Courts consultants John Doerner and Mindy Masias are on Saipan to evaluate the CNMI Judiciary's staffing adequacy and to help establish sound personnel and procurement practices.

The Judiciary sought the assistance of NCSC for an objective evaluation of court operations in an effort to improve the delivery of justice throughout the CNMI. The consultants will also provide model personnel and procurement policies, rules and regulations. Their work is funded through a grant provided by the State Justice Institute.

Doerner is NCSC's principal court management consultant and has conducted operational and financial process assessments in numerous courts across the nation. Masias is currently the director of Human Resources for the Colorado Judicial Department and an adjunct professor at the University of Denver College of Law.

The project began with a personnel questionnaire emailed to every Judiciary employee. After analyzing the questionnaire's results, the consultants are conducting a two-week site visit to follow-up with the Judiciary's employees and observe firsthand how the Judiciary operates. Judiciary staff and the consultants are working cooperatively with other agencies to create systems that will improve the capability of the Judiciary to provide critical services to CNMI residents.

The consultants met personally with the three Supreme Court justices Monday to get detailed information about court governance.

"A comprehensive review is underway to improve the delivery of judicial services to the Commonwealth, despite severely limited resources. I look forward to reading the final report and recommendations," said CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro.

The National Center for State Courts is a non-profit organization headquartered in Williamsburg, Virginia, and is dedicated to improving the administration of justice in the United States and throughout the world. ***(NMI Judiciary)***

NMI JUDICIARY

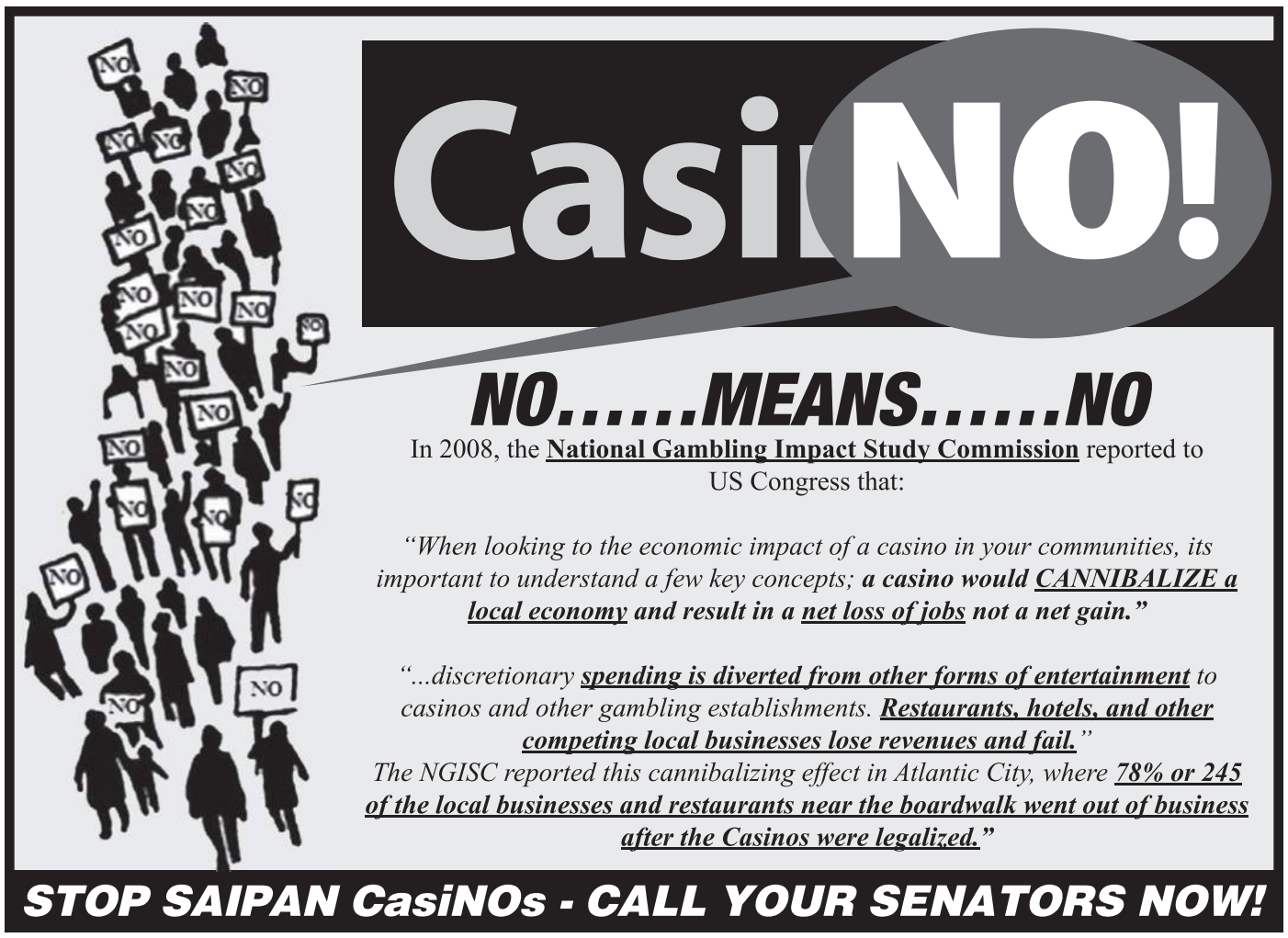
National Center of State Courts consultants John Doerner and Mindy Masias, center, meet with Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, far right, and Deputy Director of Courts and Special Assistant to the Presiding Judge Sonia A. Camacho, far left, as they being their work efficiency valuation work at the Superior Court.

NMI JUDICIARY

Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, left, discusses family court workloads with National Center of State Courts consultants Mindy Masias, center, and John Doerner, right.

NMI JUDICIARY

National Center for State Courts human resources and business process consultants Mindy Masias and John Doerner, respectively, are seated to the right of Judge Joseph N. Camacho as they join the other members of the CNMI Judiciary, standing for left to right, Judges David A. Wiseman and Kenneth L. Govendo, Justice Perry B. Inos, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Justice John A Manglona in discussing how to enhance the delivery of judicial services through human resource and procurement procedure and policy modification.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In 2008, the National Gambling Impact Study Commission reported to US Congress that:
"When looking to the economic impact of a casino in your communities, its important to understand a few key concepts; a casino would CANNIBALIZE a local economy and result in a net loss of jobs not a net gain."
"...discretionary spending is diverted from other forms of entertainment to casinos and other gambling establishments. Restaurants, hotels, and other competing local businesses lose revenues and fail."
The NGISC reported this cannibalizing effect in Atlantic City, where 78% or 245 of the local businesses and restaurants near the boardwalk went out of business after the Casinos were legalized."
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Elliptico is re-elected MINA chair

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance recently elected new officers to its board of directors, with Frankie Eliptico re-elected as its chairman.

Also elected were Bo Palacios as vice chairman, Ron Smith as secretary, Adelina Dimaano as treasurer, and Dr. Ryan Okano, Fran Castro, and Eleanor Cabrera as board members.

Eliptico currently works as director of External Relations at the Northern Marianas College, where he leads the college's marketing and recruitment initiatives.

He has been involved in numerous community events and activities for the past 20 years. He joined MINA as board secretary in April 2010, was vice chair for two years, before his assumption to chairman.

Palacios is the business development manager for Joeten Enterprises, Inc. He spearheaded the reuseable tote bag giveaway as part of their company's efforts to reduce the use of plastic bags. He joined MINA in November 2012 and continues to work on plastic bag reduction and alternative energy projects for his company.

Eliptico

Smith is the founder and president of Angil Design, Inc. and Atdao Systems. An advocate of alternative energy and sustainable living, Smith has been involved in environmental issues since 1981. Since coming to Saipan in 1995, he has embraced the ocean as a divemaster, Hobie Cat sailor, and kayaker.

For the past 22 years, Dimaano has held various management positions at Tan Holdings for Saipan and Guam office. She currently heads the financial function of Tan Holdings as vice president for Finance and in 2008, she spearheaded the Tan Holdings' "Going Green Program." Dimaano has been an active volunteer for environmental awareness campaigns, islandwide cleanups, and various community and church functions for over seven years. She joined MINA's board of directors in June 2011.

Castro currently works at the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality. She's been with DEQ for 13 years and manages the Non-Point Source Pollution and Marine Monitoring Program.

She is also the CNMI's Point of Contact to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership, Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body for Coastal and Marine Planning, and the focal point for the Micronesia Challenge. She is one of the co-founders of MINA and participated in the initial non-governmental organization's workshop that inspired the birth of MINA. Castro has been on the MINA board since 2005. She also held the MINA chair position from 2007-2011.

Originally from Hilo, Hawaii, Okano moved to the CNMI in 2009 and was hired as an ecologist at DEQ to work on the Laolao Bay Restoration Project. His background is in phycology. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2011.

Cabrera is the proprietor of Handbags Etc. and got involved in MINA when her business was just starting. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

ESFDB teachers, parents complete reading workshop

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Motheread/Fatheread participants, students, and trainers posed for a souvenir photo after completing their workshop.

Reading is a key skill for all students and adults.

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja is committed to helping each student learn to read so that he or she will then read to learn. To help in this process the faculty and parents of ESFDB attended a workshop called Motheread/Fatheread.

During the workshop, the faculty, parents, and a certified Motheread/Fatheread trainer discussed literacy, language, reading, and parenting issues as they read together a book from the Motheread/Fatheread curriculum.

According to ESFDB administrator/principal Carmen H. Atalig, "Motheread/Fatheread improves reading skills so children can be more successful in school and become better readers, thinkers, learners, and problem solvers."

"The workshop encourages parents to be reading role models for their children," added Atalig.

"The curriculum strengthens ties between parent and child, and between teacher and student," said ESFDB board president Edward Maratita Jr. "It supports parents and teachers in making their homes and classrooms a literate environment."

The goals of the Motheread/Fatheread program is to help parents to recognize that their own stories and stories in books are a good way to communicate with their children; understand the messages in children's stories; become familiar with the many ways to use stories as a way to improve children's academic skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, comprehension, and critical thinking; and discuss important parenting skills and challenges with other adults in a supportive environment.

The administration and board of directors would like to congratulate the faculty and parents for completing the workshop.

The faculty that completed the CNMI Teacheread Basic Storysharing Course are Florinda Chavez, Mary Rose Lucero, Lea Maratita, and Ann Marie Toves.

Parents that attended or completed the CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Adult Course are Eva Dela Cruz, Roger Estevez, Mary Rose Lucero, Jose Manuel, Elvira Mesngon, Normeta Paine, and Jesusa Manuel.

In addition, the administration and board of directors would like to express their appreciation to Viola Deleon Guerrero and Geraldine Dela Cruz for providing the workshop for the faculty and parents. ***(Edward Maratita Jr.)***

Next Marriage Encounter weekend set

Want to spend an unforgettable weekend with your wife/husband to rediscover your hopes and dreams? When was the last time you spent time alone with your spouse to reconnect and share some true quality time? Yes, you can turn your marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend!

The emphasis of the M.E. Weekend is on the communication between husbands and wives. The Weekend provides a conducive environment for couples to spend time together, encouraging them to focus on each other and their relationship. It's not a retreat, marriage clinic or substitute for counseling. Couples are not required to share anything with anyone else. It's a unique approach aimed at revitalizing marriage so it truly is a marriage enrichment program.

The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be held on Nov. 8~10, 2013. Cost is $100 per couple. Space is limited for only 25 couples.

For further information or a registration form, contact fall 2013 weekend coordinators Joe and Reyna Saures at 287-4648 or email reynasaures@gmail.com; Jay and Joyce Santos at 285-5466 or email teedoffsaipan@gmail.com; Joe and Linda Muña at 287-7943 or email lbmuna@gmail.com. You may also contact the Ecclesial Team/Executive Board members Fr. Ike Ayuyu at 256-4568, or email ikeayuyu@gmail.com; Charles and Cathy Cepeda at 483-7000 or email csablancepeda@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 28, 2005

Govt switches to IT&E for long distance calls

The Babauta administration has signed a contract with IT&E Overseas Inc. to provide long distance services to the CNMI government effective Sept. 1, 2005 to Aug. 31, 2007. The two-year contract replaces Verizon, the government's current provider. This developed as Pacific Telecom Inc., the buyer of Verizon, is anticipated to fully take over the telephone company next month. Last April, a number of Executive Branch officials led by Gov. Juan N. Babauta, also made a switch to SaipanCell for their mobile phone services. This came after the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission ruled in favor of the multi-million sale of Verizon to PTI.

'Govt collects $12M more than last year'

The CNMI government has so far collected some $12 million more this fiscal year than in FY 2004, Finance Secretary Fermin M. Atalig said. As of July 2005, total revenues have reached $189 million, Atalig said. During the same period last year, the government's total collection was $177 million. Atalig said the increase in collection was due to "increased economic activities." "We [had] more activities this year," he said, noting that for business gross revenue alone, the government collected some $53 million this year compared with last year's $43 million. "If you look at the figures, you'll see that we're getting more revenues, that the economy is moving, unlike what our detractors are saying," said Atalig.

August 28, 2006

'One department, one force'

The new chief of the Department of Public Safety has vowed to unify the force and increase police presence throughout the islands. Acting Commissioner Rebecca Warfield calls her vision for DPS "One Department, One Force." She reported Friday that she spent her first three days on the job explaining this vision to the rank-and-file officers, as well as their commanders. "One Department, One Force means that no one is more important than anyone else. DPS is about people because they're the only line of defense between chaos and order in the Commonwealth," Warfield said.

CUC implements new power outage rotation

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has implemented a new power outage schedule for this week to rotate both the time slots and the affected areas. CUC spokesperson Pamela Mathis told Saipan Tribune yesterday in a phone interview they will rotate the blackout schedule effective today through Friday. Mathis said the rotation will be for both the time slots and the grids to minimize outages on Saipan and to offer fairness to all consumers. She said that they are trying not to affect the businesses particularly the restaurants.

August 28, 2007

Shell drops gas prices

After increasing gas prices more than a month ago, Shell Marianas lowered its pump prices yesterday effective at noon on Saipan. Shell decreased its price for regular gasoline by 10 cents a gallon and premium gas by eight cents a gallon. Shell Marianas president Ruben Domingo said in a statement that since their last price movement the market cost of Shell's supply has reduced. "We will pass these savings to our customers," Domingo said.

Woman fighting for life after stabbing rampage

A Public School System staff was arrested for allegedly seriously injuring his wife by attacking her with a machete, pocket knife, and BB gun at their house in Garapan early Sunday morning. Vicente Limes Laniyo, 40, who is assigned at the PSS food and nutrition service program, was apprehended for assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Laniyo is also a member of a local band. The victim was still in the intensive care unit of the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday for multiple injuries. Police said the victim sustained multiple stab and laceration wounds on the arms, hands, and knees. She has six stab wounds in her right thigh and one each behind the left ear, the back of the neck, and both sides of her upper shoulder. She also has multiple lacerations and stab wounds on the left side of her back.

Parents and students on Yap attended a Habele workshop in order to learn about the scholarship program and to receive support in completing their applications.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Habele awards K12 scholarships to FSM students

U.S.-based charity Habele has announced issuance of its annual tuition K12 scholarships to students across the Federated States of Micronesia this week. The scholarships are awarded to low-income and high-performing students to attend the K-12 school of their family's choosing.

The scholarships cover 75 percent of a student's tuition at one of eight participating schools in three of the FSM's four states. The students primarily come from rural communities and remote outer islands. Habele's scholarships allow them to attend the highest quality private schools in the country, which tend to be located on the larger islands that serve as state capitals.

"Habele is very proud to announce our 2013 scholarship recipients," said Neil Mellen, a Habele director. "Thanks to our generous donors, we're going to help over 40 students this year—nearly twice the number that we supported last year."

The increase in scholarship allocations was made possible by a combination of individual and institutional donations from across the United States and Europe. Special support came from Ray and Barbara Dalio of Greenwich, Connecticut as well as from the Hamburg-based corporation "Yapital."

"We're very grateful to our donors," said Mellen. "People have been more generous than ever. We've had contributions from American civil servants, scuba diving tourists in the islands, and former Peace Corps volunteers. In particular, we've received just tremendous levels of support from Barbara and Ray Dalio, who visited Pohnpei and Yap last year, and from Yapital, a German financial services corporation that just launched this summer."

Habele, which was founded by a group of former Peace Corps volunteers, has been awarding scholarships to primary and secondary school students in Micronesia since 2006. Each student is required to provide Habele with copies of his or her report card, a thank you letter, and a photograph during the course of the school year. New applicants also submit details of their family's financial situation, and those applying to renew their scholarships must resubmit their application forms each year.

"We're investing in these students," said Mellen. "That's our mission: to take a promising young man or woman, one who may not have access to quality education due to life circumstances, and give him or her the best schooling we possibly can. These are the young people who will grow up to lead Micronesia."

"A scholarship is not a handout," agreed fellow director Alex Sidles. "Not only are the families of our scholars contributing their share to the tuition costs, but we see our scholarships as an investment in the future of the FSM. It's good for the students, and it's good for the country."

Tuition checks will be mailed out to the schools in the coming days, and parents of successful scholarship applicants will be notified by mail at the same time.

Those interested in applying for a scholarship or supporting Habele's work in Micronesia can learn more online at www.habele.org. ***(Habele)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Miserable life in lonely cell would deny Nidal Hasan martyrdom

Nidal Hasan's guilt for the horrible Nov. 5, 2009, massacre at Fort Hood was certain even before he admitted it in the opening remarks of his court-martial. No one seriously disputed that a heavily armed Hasan gunned down dozens of fellow U.S. soldiers, killing 13 and wounding more than 30.

That was the verdict a military jury of 13 senior officers reached Friday, after seven hours of deliberations over two days. Not only did Hasan concede his actions, he barely mounted a defense after demanding to serve as his own lead counsel.

The only real question remains unanswered: What price will he pay? Because jurors unanimously found him guilty all 45 charges, including 13 of premeditated murder, Hasan is eligible for the death penalty. Testimony in the punishment phase of this court-martial begins Monday. If jurors are not unanimous for death, Hasan, 42, would receive life in prison.

Even with the heinousness of Hasan's crimes, the Dallas Morning News stands by its opposition to the death penalty. Tempting though it might be to argue for an exception for an Army major and psychiatrist who plotted to kill U.S. troops in cold blood, lethal injection would give this jihadist exactly what he wants.

Hasan, a Virginia-born Muslim, never intended to stand trial and fully expected he would achieve martyrdom in a burst of return gunfire that day. Over his objections to the war, Hasan had been scheduled to ship out with the soldiers he would attack in a processing center after screaming, "Allahu akbar!" He told jurors he "switched sides" and assumed the role of enemy fighter, hardly the "workplace violence" the federal government has called it. The judge, Col. Tara Osborn, disallowed his planned "in defense of others" trial strategy, "others" meaning the Taliban leaders he sought to protect from U.S. troops.

As his minimal defense proves, he still believes he can die a hero to fellow jihadists overseas by taking the needle. Why reward him?

Although he survived his shootout, a bullet struck his spine and left him paralyzed from the chest down. He relies on others for basic hygienic and therapeutic needs. It would not be a stretch to presume he sees life on this planet as intolerable. His body has become a burden.

Why grant him relief, while family members of those he killed and those who survived will never truly get theirs? Why give the killer an easy out?

If you believe in justice, consider a Nidal Hasan sentenced to a lonely, miserable life in an American prison cell, unable to perform the most basic tasks. As the months tick past, his fame diminishes among other jihadists. Instead of martyrdom, Hasan gets hour upon hour, year upon year to contemplate his hate. Maybe one day he will find remorse and shed tears for the lives he ruined.

To give him death is to deny America the justice too long overdue.

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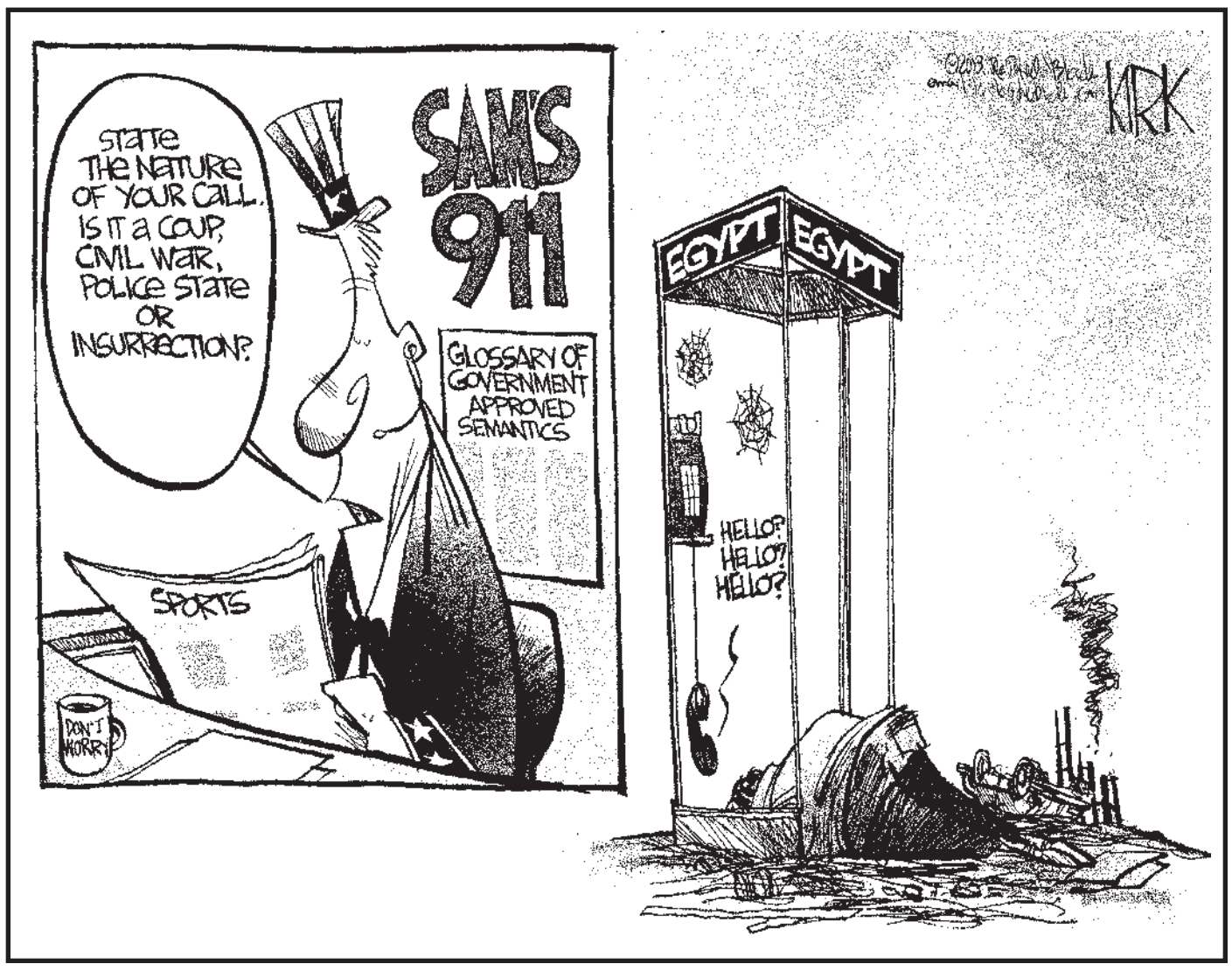


At the center tranquil

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Set to the tune of *Shenandoah,* aka *Across the Wide Missouri,* this other song appeals to a deeper chord than the mellow *Try to Remember* in yesterday's musing. We used to reside within the beltway on the Virginia side so we were always bombarded with news from the Shenandoah Valley. The tune itself almost became the state song but did not pass muster in the Legislature. It appears that the word "Shenandoah" referred to an Indian chief, verboten to the Potomac's gentility.

The tune became popular to people of my generation with Jimmy Stewart in the 1965 movie *Shenandoah,* and the soundtrack of the *Cinerama* widescreen, *How the West was Won!*

The traditional tune wandered far and wide—a Shenandoah Valley origin segued to a Civil War gray soldier pining for home by the Missouri River. Flatboat men of the river developed a *chanty* (pronounced *shanty*), a work song that is echoed downriver, like in the Mississippi's *Showboat* familiar to many: "Tote that barge! Lift that bale! Git a little drunk, An' you land in jail..."

We will not go into the Missouri pronunciation (Mi-zoor-i-eye to the Illini, and Mi-zoor-uh to Oklahom-uh) since that is not pertinent other than as an interesting aside.

I thank colleagues of kindred spirit who penned the following lyrics so I do not have to.

Universe, illumination,
all unknown, absurd assurance
Everywhere is found life's meaning
and I, I am the way
at the center tranquil.

Those of us who grew up with the barefoot boy of Nazareth remember Johannine attribution to his dialogue as having said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." The admonition we got was more of the "go and do likewise" tone, rather than the idolatrous adulation carried in the dense medieval traditions of most Christian denominations.

There's no hope, yet all is hopeful,
then no cares, there are no problems
No enemies no earthly foes,
and I, I am the struggle
at the center tranquil

In the prologue of Nikos Kazantzakis' early 1920s *Spiritual Exercises,* it says: "We come from a dark abyss, we end in a dark abyss, and we call the luminous interval life." Heady stuff. "As soon as we are born the return begins, at once the setting forth and the coming back; we die in every moment. Because of this many have cried out: The goal of life is death! But as soon as we are born we begin the *struggle* to create, to compose, to turn matter into life…" With the imagery of the crimson line in an evolutionary ascent, the human spirit pushes the struggle to turn matter into life.

Pulsing exhilaration,
everything's become a blessing
Embraced by joy a dance of rapture,
and I, I am the stillness
at the center tranquil.

Parting words in religious rites I grew up with include the passing of peace. "The Peace of God is with you," is echoed regularly in Christian Mass and service of worship. Peace, of course, is the one that "passeth understanding"! In contemporary psychological therapy of stress management disciplines is "centering," called "contemplative prayer" in the monastic tradition. It is the call for stillness to linger in our souls.

Gloriously condemned to die:
life is new, a great resurgence
Community with all the faithful
and I, I am forever
at the center tranquil.

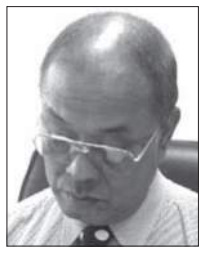
Kennedy went for outer space, where no one had gone before. Obama just launched an inventory on the content of what lies between our ears as today's frontier of knowledge. This is long overdue. I know more about the constellations as I do the fields of dreams and imaginations in my own head. But community is the last frontier. Though I am no longer in the business of reforming the structures of *oikos*, a few dear friends are demonstrating with their own lives what is called *Christian Resurgence Circles!*

Who has the chutzpah to say, I am the way, the struggle, and the stillness! As we have previously commented, we are predisposed to condemn all forms of self-centeredness as egotistical. This is not, however, about the ego. It is the affirmation of one' selfhood. And in community, I will be faithful to the end!

At the center tranquil is no early evening walk in the park. It trudges the way—before, here, and after. It wrestles the struggle to be comprehensive and inclusive of all directions including height and depth that is waged in the lifestyle of stillness, the freedom of my soul. Who shall live with me in that land?

It is a showboat, not a slow boat to China, at the center tranquil.

Language: The Bridge



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Would our children retain their native tongue with some sense of common decency or would they scrap it using an adopted language that lends to the eventual death of Chamorro?

It is easy to see that the use of our native tongue prompts inclusiveness in any and all discussions. It allows for successful group communication. It strengthens rather than erode use of your native tongue. If we ignore its use, then it's an omen of the eventual disappearance of the vernacular in the near-term.

The importance of using our mother tongue is in the instant inclusion of the folks around the room. They hear you in a medium they understand. It grants them the opportunity to understand the issues under discussion. You make them a part of what I have dubbed the "Marianas Discussion." There are reasons for the use of the vernacular, especially in townhall meetings or PTA.

For over five centuries, it seems that these isles belonged only to colonial powers whose agenda almost always begin with the destruction of our native tongue. It's arrogance of the worst order to systematically divorce or destroy a natural part of our peoplehood.

It's sickening the notion that our language is fatally doomed to inferiority and extinction. It's morally wrong to feed upon undermining our native tongue. It simply alienates most indigenous people from economic opportunities and participation. It alienates the indigenous folks from significant issues they must strive to understand and come to terms with over the long-term.

When I started scribbling in my native tongue in 1972 I had to do it with a vengeance. I came back learning the written aspect of it. My last lesson in Chamorro ended in the second grade in 1957. We were never taught our language after that year. I had to reach back listening to my teacher in absentia, uncles, and grandparents how the vowels are used, vocabulary in the vernacular, and the mixture of local and Spanish orthography and use of formal and informal Chamorro.

I came close to throwing in the towel but I never gave up the commitment to build fluency in the written aspect of my mother tongue. Furthermore, reliance on the resources of a borrowed language translates into giving up the opportunity to develop and strengthen indigenous consciousness, "a view of the world that reflects our shared experience and aspirations as a people. This consciousness is what cognitively unites us and compels us to develop a language. It is what permits us not only to imagine a common past but also agree on common purposes."

Randy David, a columnist for the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, related what Nietzsche had to say on the connection between consciousness and language: "Consciousness, is meant as a kind of mirror on which a portion of our thoughts and feelings are reflected and registered.

"Man, like every living being, thinks continually without knowing it; the thinking that rises to consciousness is only the smallest part of all this…' Only this part takes the form of words, he adds. The whole of life would be possible without, as it were, seeing itself in a mirror." That being the case, the logical question is: "For what purpose, then, is any consciousness at all when it is in the main superfluous?"

"Nietzsche's conclusion is as simple as it is powerful: 'The development of language and the development of consciousness go hand in hand.' The growth of indigenous consciousness is dependent on a people's need to 'communicate their distress and their aspirations to one another.'"

Never give up what's a part of you. However difficult the challenges may be, it is more the reason to use our native tongue in any and all meetings. It is inclusive and promotes greater understanding among the indigenous people.

Why indigenous culture/tradition

It was a painstaking journey revisiting the ancestral history of our people, the martyrdom they had to endure to protect these pearly isles for their children.

However the planned cultural genocide by foreign powers, our ancestors learned to deal with it to ensure the perpetuation of our peoplehood. They never relented, though highly explosive the unjust impositions may have been.

In their long, hard journey, they established a way of life—using our land—to plant and raise animals for family or community sustenance. They also used the vast expanse and length of the sea in the archipelago to meet community needs. It was "Our Way" handed down through generations. They've handed us the torch of our cultural traditions. It's now in our hands!

I liken our cultural tradition to that of a fish composed of a tail (history), body (present), and the head (future). We've joined the tiny waves that wash ashore from far away places daily. They bring whisper of tidings from our brothers and sisters living in the sea of islands near and far.

The sea unites us! I'm forever grateful to have been the sibling of these beautiful islands. I'm equally aware that the powerful spirit of our ancestors is all around us. Let's remember their unwavering resiliency as original faithful trustees of these isles.

■■■

There's a very remote island down under. Its people lived off the land and sea. One day they decided to build a huge monument along the shore. It involved chopping down all breadfruit and coconut trees. The destruction of the trees of sustenance turned the breadfruit season into a "yawning" time of year.

The project was never completed. Even the master architect who dreamt of it died at the halfway mark. What's the moral of the story? I think it's called cultural cannibalism! It's no fun swallowing air when your tummy is growling out of starvation. No need to begin the "yawn season" either. The Nancy Boys are doing that for us already.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open letter to John Del Rosario

Dear Mr. Rosario: I am writing in response to a recent column that you had written about not comprehending how I as a representative of the people of Tinian would vote to not allow $1.7 million to be used for homesteads on Tinian.

1. When I got elected into office by the good people of Tinian, I took on oath and I swore that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

2. In the Article 11 Section 5 (g) of the Constitution, it states that the "corporation shall receive all moneys from the public lands except those from lands in which freehold interest has been transferred to another agency of government pursuant to section 5(b), and shall transfer these moneys after the end of the fiscal year to the Marianas Public Land Trust except that the corporation shall retain the amount necessary to meet reasonable expenses of administration and management, land surveying, homestead development, and any other expenses reasonably necessary for the accomplishment of its functions. The annual budget of the corporation shall be submitted to the Legislature for information purposes only."

3. The budget request by DPL under "Business Unit 1950 Class code 62670 All Others" that was submitted to the Legislature and that I received stated in parenthesis (budget only) in the amount of $2 million. It did not indicate for homestead use.

4. DPL provided a memo dated March 8, 2013, indicating the intended use of the $2 million, although the budget request itself did not indicate such use. Therefore, there is no guarantee or assurance that the money will be used as intended for homesteads on Tinian.

As an elected leader from Tinian, I cannot be gullible and accept a simple memo, thinking that it is justified for the people of Tinian. Knowing that the money is under "all others" means it could be spent on other things aside from homesteads.

How can I go against the very oath that I took to protect the Constitution, knowing that since 2006 to the present DPL hasn't been audited and therefore the actual amount that should be remitted to MPLT is not fully justified.

I voted to have the money given to MPLT until such time that either the budget request from DPL is rectified and the funding for the homesteads is assured for its intended purpose.

We are still addressing the budget in the Legislature and I have spoken to DPL representatives who acknowledge the situation and are working to rectify the matter. There is still opportunity to correct the mistakes and to do what is right. I will continue to work on the positives and not allow mistakes to prevail.

I fully support having the homesteads issued as I have introduced House Resolution 18-25, respectfully urging the governor and lieutenant governor to issue such homesteads, and I fully support having the funds for Tinian but on a secure aspect, not false pretenses.

Rep. Trenton B. Conner
18th Legislature, Capital Hill

A danger to the public!

Last weekend, I witnessed two vehicles almost collide at the Navy Hill intersection where the streetlights recently broke down. One vehicle was coming down Navy Hill heading west, while the other bigger SUV was heading south on Middle Road. It was that vehicle that had to swerve to avoid a nasty crunch up in the middle of the intersection.

This is a danger to the people in our community! It brings unnecessary danger to those walking, driving, biking, skating, or jogging along any of our broken lights.

I understand that money is always to blame for our issues, but are we waiting for someone to die before we change these lights?

I was in Palau last summer and saw that they took down their streetlights because some believed it caused more traffic accidents and that drivers are gracious as they share their roadways.

On Saipan, I began seeing these lights break down sometime before this summer, but none of them have been fixed since. Cars on Saipan usually are driven at higher speeds than on Palau.

I can also tell you that it is not because the roads are not being used that the lights are not being replaced.

So what is the holdup?

The Department of Public Works, I hear, is in charge. When I called their Gualo Rai office, the person I spoke to was gracious and tried to explain what was in the works, and said they have gotten a grant and are trying to get the parts to the island from the mainland now. He could not give me a timeline, but mentioned that they are hoping parts will arrive before the new fiscal year or Oct. 1, 2013. This problem is further compounded by the faded street markings for crosswalks and such can really be a recipe for disaster.

This is a concern for our Saipan community, including our people with disabilities who also use these roadways either in their own vehicles or on foot. Please keep in mind that some of us cannot run across the street or see well at night. Some of us have anxiety issues and, when cars are lined up revving at the faded lines by the lights ready to take off, it can cause unwanted conditions that may affect us negatively. There are also some of us who cannot hear, and blaring horns may not be picked up at all. The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Incorporated protects the rights of people with disabilities in the CNMI. For more on disabilities visit www.nmpasi.org, fax at 235-7275, call 235-7273/4, or for TTY call 235-7278.

So let us all try to share the roads while we wait for repairs to these lights, and maintain your insurance for the unthinkable.

Thomas M. Thornburgh
Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc.

Honesty, integrity, and ethics

A lot of the problems we have today are rooted in lack of practice of the basic tenets of honesty, integrity, and ethics.

Has the position of power in government Boards gone to the head of the members that they think they are above the law? My firmhas suffered an unlicensed engineer. Professional Engineer workMy firm legal last January PElaw by not obtaining a business license Our children are not learning to be honest, trustworthy, and ethical except those who are getting proper training from their parents, teachers, and others.

governmentjust gave the violators a letter of requirement like a minor slap on the wristand ededthe oard There have already been too many building fires on Saipan. How many were caused by electrical deficiencies?Our elected officials and public officials are not all practicing honesty, integrity, and ethics. Many are complacent and not acting judiciously for the people that put them in office.

How can a US Commonwealthpeople continue tolerate this? Even the Philippines which has a poor record of gGovernment accountability is changing for the better by working on the impeachment of a Chief Justice who allegedly has not been exercising his fiduciary responsibilities.needed more than ever. Look at what happened to the CNMI retirement system. Need we look further?

Architects are being allowed to practice above their level of competence and illegal "rubber stamping" by engineers continue to go on in spite of its violation of public law.

Even the power company is above the law by violating a public law that mandates implementation of renewable energy. They also violated CNMI law by allowing unlicensed businesses to be awarded contracts and permitting an non-level and unfair field of competition with properly licensed businesses. I am grateful that Gov. Eloy Inos has taken corrective actions on this. He also needs to take action on the unlawful moratorium by changing the law or fixing the power company problem with renewable energy penetration.

The character of a community is viewed by the way it practices honesty, integrity, and ethics. The people need to provide action to change this.

History will judge the members of the Board.

Jose S. Servino, PE, CEM, QCP
President/CEO, Servino & Associates, Inc.
Advanced Engineering Consulting Co.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

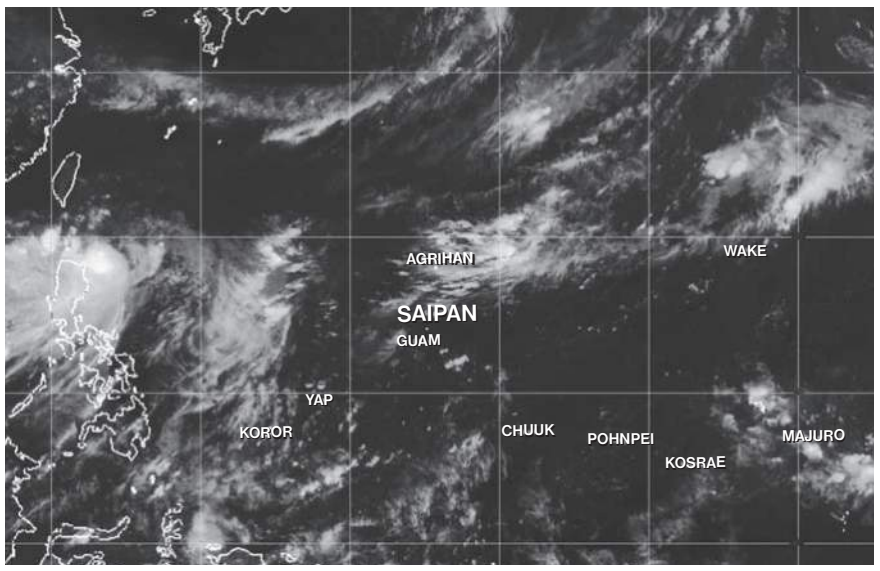
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲87	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼74
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲58	▼48
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼62
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼74
London	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼59
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼67
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲70	▼49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼69
Osaka	Cloudy	▲92	▼80
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲76	▼54
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Rome	Sunny	▲80	▼64
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼63
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼59
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲80	▼72
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼79
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from near 20N130E to 18N140E to 14N143E. Low-level convergence south of the trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Yap between 11N and 19N from 130E to 138E. Another area of low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Palau between the equator and 6N from 130E to 140E. A surface trough extends from 25N158E to 21N153E to 19N148E. Convergence ahead of this trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas between 17N and 23N from 148E to 158E and north of Wake Island between 20N and 25N from 162E to 172E. A surface trough extends from 3N172E to 6N180. This trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over the Marshall Islands between 2N and 7N from 170E to 180 and near Kwajalein between 7N and 10N from 166E to 170E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:44 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
3:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
8:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:05 PM	12:11 PM
Thursday	11:52 PM	1:01 PM
Friday	12:39 AM	1:49 PM
Saturday	1:28 AM	2:35 PM
Sunday	2:17 AM	3:20 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 10, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
OZ1077	4:50am	7:10am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
DL583	5:50am	8:30am	2, 5, 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ612	3:40am	7:20am	Daily
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
OZ1087	10:00pm	2:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
DL582	8:30pm	1:00am+1	1, 4, 5
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ611	9:10pm	2:40am+1	Daily
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

Is Coke's 127-year-old recipe the same? Not quite

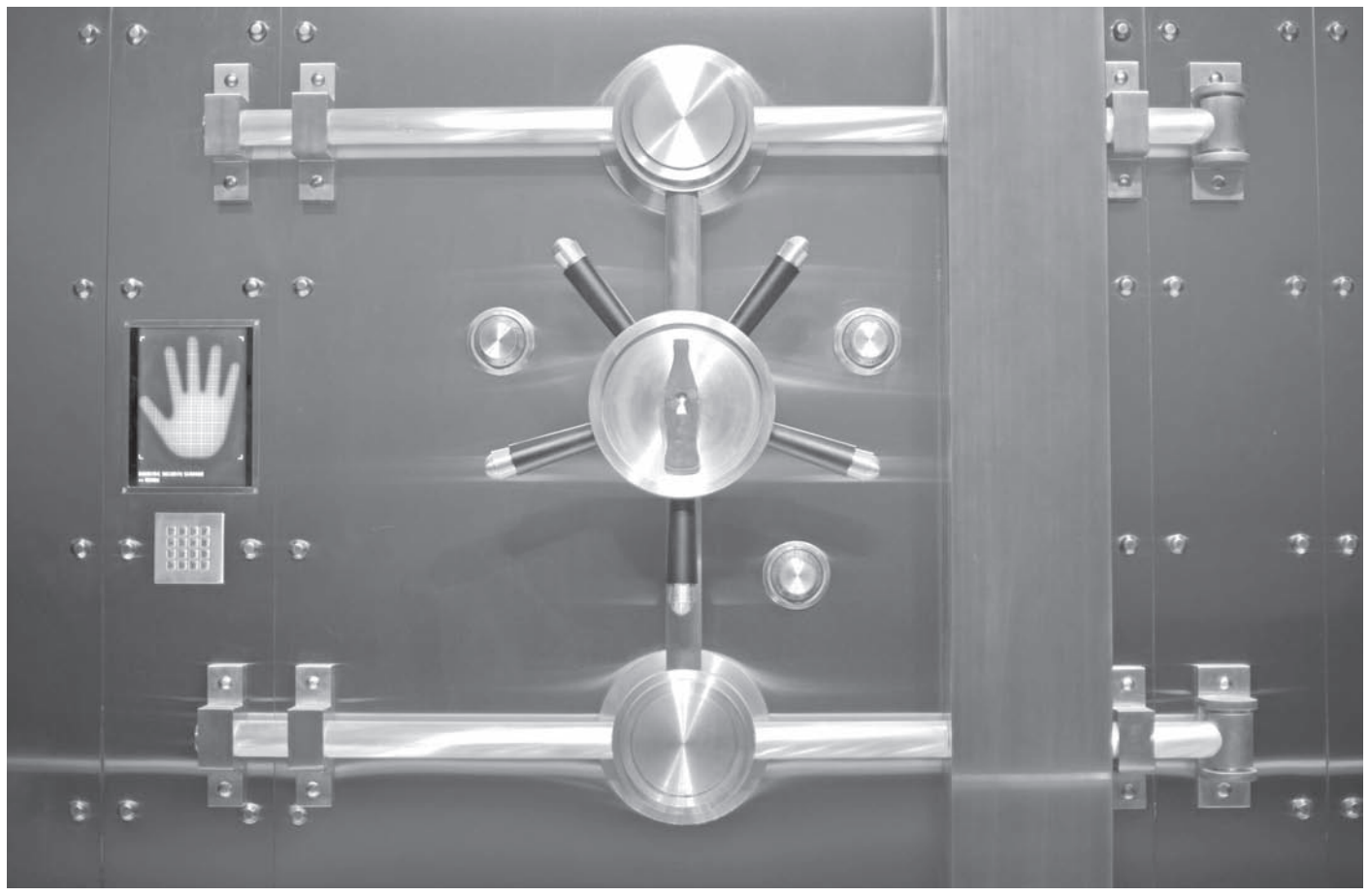
ATLANTA (AP)—Coca-Cola keeps the recipe for its 127-year-old soda inside an imposing steel vault that's bathed in red security lights. Several cameras monitor the area to make sure the fizzy formula stays a secret.

But in one of the many signs that the surveillance is as much about theater as reality, the images that pop up on video screens are of smiling tourists waving at themselves.

"It's a little bit for show," concedes a guard at the World of Coca-Cola museum in downtown Atlanta, where the vault is revealed at the end of an exhibit in a puff of smoke.

The ability to push a quaint narrative about a product's origins and fuel a sense of nostalgia can help drive billions of dollars in sales. That's invaluable at a time when food makers face greater competition from smaller players and cheaper supermarket store brands that appeal to cash-strapped Americans.

It's why companies such as Coca-Cola and Twinkies' owner Hostess play up the notion that their recipes are sacred, unchanging documents that need to be closely guarded. As it turns out, some recipes have changed over time, while others may not have. Either way, they all stick to the same script that their formulas have remained the same.



AP

In this Friday, Aug. 9, 2013 photo, the vault containing the "secret recipe" for Coca-Cola stands on display at the World of Coca-Cola museum, in Atlanta.

John Ruff, who formerly headed research & development at Kraft Foods, said companies often recalibrate ingredients for various reasons, including new regulations, fluctuations in commodity costs and other issues that impact mass food production.

"It's almost this mythological thing, the secret formula," said the president of the Institute of Food Technologists, which studies the science of food. "I would be amazed if formulas (for big brands) haven't changed."

This summer, the Twinkies cream-filled cakes many Americans grew up snacking on made a comeback after being off shelves for about nine months following the bankruptcy of Hostess Brands. At the time, the new owners promised the spongy yellow cakes would taste just like people remember.

A representative for Hostess, Hannah Arnold, said in an email that Twinkies today are "remarkably close to the original recipe," noting that the first three ingredients are still enriched flour, water and sugar.

Yet a box of Twinkies now lists more than 25 ingredients and has a shelf-life of 45 days, almost three weeks longer than the 26 days from just a year ago. That suggests the ingredients have been tinkered with, to say the least, since they were created in 1930.

"When Twinkies first came out they were largely made from fresh ingredients," notes Steve Ettlinger, author of "Twinkie, Deconstructed," which traced the roots of the cake's many modern-day industrial ingredients.

For its part, KFC says it still strictly follows the recipe created in 1940 by its famously bearded founder, Colonel Harland Sanders. The chain understood the power of marketing early on, with Sanders originally dying his beard white to achieve a more grandfatherly look.

Fast forward to 2009, when KFC decided the security for the handwritten copy of the recipe needed a flashy upgrade. It installed a 770-pound safe that is under constant video and motion-detection surveillance and surrounded by two feet of concrete on every side—just in case any would-be thieves try to dig a tunnel to get it.

"Like something out of a Hollywood movie," a press release from KFC trumpeted at the time.

Economists: Future deficits top US fiscal problem

NEW YORK (AP)—The biggest fiscal challenge facing the U.S. is the size of projected deficits in the 2020s and 2030s, according to a survey of business economists.

The National Association for Business Economics surveyed 220 of its members in July and August. The survey found that members were more concerned about the size of deficits in the next two decades than current deficits or deficits over the next 10 years: 43 percent of the economists named budget gaps in the 2020s and 2030s as the top fiscal challenge, compared with 37 percent who chose projected deficits over the next 10 years.

The policy survey found that no consensus on the best way to address those deficits.

The NABE said 39 percent of those surveyed felt the best way to address the deficit-to-gross domestic product ratio in the next few decades is a mix of spending restraint and increased revenue. It said 32 percent believe the best single tool would be greater spending restraint, and 20 percent said enacting policies designed to encourage economic growth would be the best tactic.

Ballooning costs for Social Security and Medicare as the U.S. population ages are expected to result in growing long-term budget deficits.

The NABE said there is broader agreement about monetary policy, as a majority of panelists think the Federal Reserve's current policy is "about right." But the respondents widely diverged on when they think the Fed will stop its policy of buying bonds to prop up the economy.

The Fed's bond buying has helped keep U.S. interest rates near record lows. But speculation about when the Fed will slow or stop the program has fed volatility in the financial markets.

About 39 percent of survey respondents think the Fed will begin slowing the program in the fourth quarter of this year. Some, about 7 percent, think it won't happen until 2015 or later. About 39 percent think the Fed will wait until 2015 or later to begin raising its interest rate targets, its traditional tool for balancing economic growth with keeping inflation in check.

Majorities also said that a path to citizenship or other legal status for people who entered the country illegally will strengthen economic growth, and that the 2010 Affordable Care Act will increase federal spending on health care.

Bust to boom: Can strippers save Atlantic City?

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—What if, after seven years of plunging casino revenues and fleeing customers, Atlantic City's real problem was this: People are wearing too much clothing?

Scores, the famous New York strip club, will open a satellite establishment inside the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort next month—the first strip club inside an Atlantic City casino in the 35 years of legal gambling here.

It will be the most audacious adult offering in an Atlantic City casino, though it's not the first: Revel has offered the Royal Jelly burlesque show since it opened, the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa hosts a burlesque show every Thursday night, and dancers in bras and panties are common on gambling floors, including at the Tropicana Casino and Resort and the Showboat Casino Hotel.

"We feel this is the third leg of the Atlantic City triangle: gambling, alcohol and adult entertainment," said Bob Gans, the club's managing partner. "It's a natural."

Since 2006, when the first casino opened in Pennsylvania and began taking away business that had gone to New Jersey for three decades, Atlantic City has been struggling with new competition popping up all around it. Revenue has fallen from $5.2 billion that year to just over $3 billion last year, and thousands of jobs have been lost in a decline that shows no signs of ending.

In addition to family-friendly attractions like a revamped Steel Pier amusement park, the return of the Miss America pageant and free outdoor light shows on Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City has been looking for other ways to separate people and their money. The seaside resort has a century-old reputation as an adult playground, so it's somewhat surprising it took this long for strippers to make their way inside the gambling halls.

Gans is investing $25 million in the newest Scores, which will open Sept. 12 with five private VIP rooms, 11 stripper poles and an ultra-VIP room for celebrities and high-rollers.

Cover charges will range from $10 to $30. The club's Diamond Dollars, which cash-strapped customers can charge to their credit cards, come with a steep 20 percent markup: $100 worth of club dollars costs $120.

Patrons and employees will have to behave; New Jersey laws governing casinos prohibit total nudity. In approving the club in December 2011, the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement issued a ruling that bordered on an anatomy lesson, governing in explicit detail what can be shown and what needs to stay covered. In short, dancers may strip down only to a G-string and pasties, small fabric patches that cover the nipples. Lap dances are prohibited, as is any simulation of sexual activity.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
14,946.46	1,656.78	3,657.57
64.05	6.72	0.22
-0.43%	-0.40%	-0.01%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.1165	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7572	Philippine Peso	44.5045
British Pound	0.6429	Indian Rupee	65.6821	Singapore Dollar	1.2839
Canadian Dollar	1.053	Indonesian Rupiah	10846	South Korean Won	1117.28
Chinese Yuan	6.1285	Japanese Yen	98.1693	Swiss Franc	0.9217
Euro	0.7485	Malaysian Ringgit	3.3308	Taiwan Dollar	29.991
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2814	Thailand Baht	32.1782

Nation

Emotional testimony as jury weighs Hasan's fate

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)—A soldier left for dead after being shot in the head. A widow whose two sons won't have their father to take them fishing or teach them how to be gentlemen. A grieving father who includes himself and his unborn grandson in the death toll of the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood.

Survivors of the attack and relatives of those killed testified Monday during the final phase of Maj. Nidal Hasan's trial. Prosecutors hope the emotional testimony—from sobbing widows, distraught parents and paralyzed soldiers—helps convince jurors to impose a rare military death sentence on Hasan, who was convicted last week of killing 13 people and wounding more than 30 others at the Texas military base.

The sentencing phase also will be Hasan's last chance to tell jurors what he's spent the last four years telling the military, judges and journalists: that the killing of unarmed American soldiers preparing to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan was necessary to protect Muslim insurgents. But whether he plans to address jurors remains unclear.

Hasan

Staff Sgt. Patrick Ziegler was among the first to testify, telling jurors how he was shot four times and underwent emergency surgery that removed about 20 percent of his brain. Doctors initially expected him to die or remain in a vegetative state.

Ziegler was hospitalized for about 11 months and had 10 surgeries. He is now paralyzed on his left side, unable to use his left hand, and blind spots in both eyes prevent him from driving.

"I think I'm hopeful I'll continue to recover some movement, but eventually I'll succumb to my wounds and I won't be able to function," Ziegler said.

The married father said he has trouble caring for his 10-month-old son, "like a normal father would," and described his cognitive level as that of a 10th or 11th grader. He also said he has fought severe depression.

"I'm a lot angrier and lot darker than I used to be," he said, adding that the injuries had "pretty much affected every facet of my personality."

Shoua Her wiped away tears as she recalled how she and her husband, Pfc. Kham Xiong, talked about growing old together and having more children. Now, she said, their children know their slain father only through memories and stories.

"We had talked about how excited we were to purchase our first home. We talked about vacations and places we wanted to go visit. And all that was stripped away from me," she said.

"Our daughter will not have her dad to walk her down the aisle. My two sons will never have their dad to take them fishing or (teach them) sports or how to be a gentleman."

"I miss him a lot," she added. "I miss his soft, gentle hands. How he holds me. He made me feel safe and secure. Now the other side of the bed is empty and cold. I feel dead but yet alive."

As she testified, one juror, a male officer, fought back tears.

Juan Velez, the father of Pvt. Francheska Velez, said his family hasn't come to grips with her death. His 21-year-old daughter was pregnant, and several witnesses testified about hearing her cry, "My baby! My baby!" during the attack.

"That man did not just kill 13, he killed 15. He killed my grandson (Velez' unborn child) and myself," he said in Spanish. "It hurt me to the bottom of my soul."

Another widow, Cristi Greene, struggled through sobs as she recalled her husband of 3 1/2 years, Pfc. Frederick Greene.

"I can't explain how hard it's been. You open a box, looking at a picture. It hurts so bad. It's all you're ever going to have," she said.

Green's mother, Karen Nourse, said everything changed the day Army officers arrived at her daughter-in-law's home for the death notification: "I get up in the morning and I prepare myself to get through a day without him. And that's difficult. And it won't ever go away. Ever," she said.

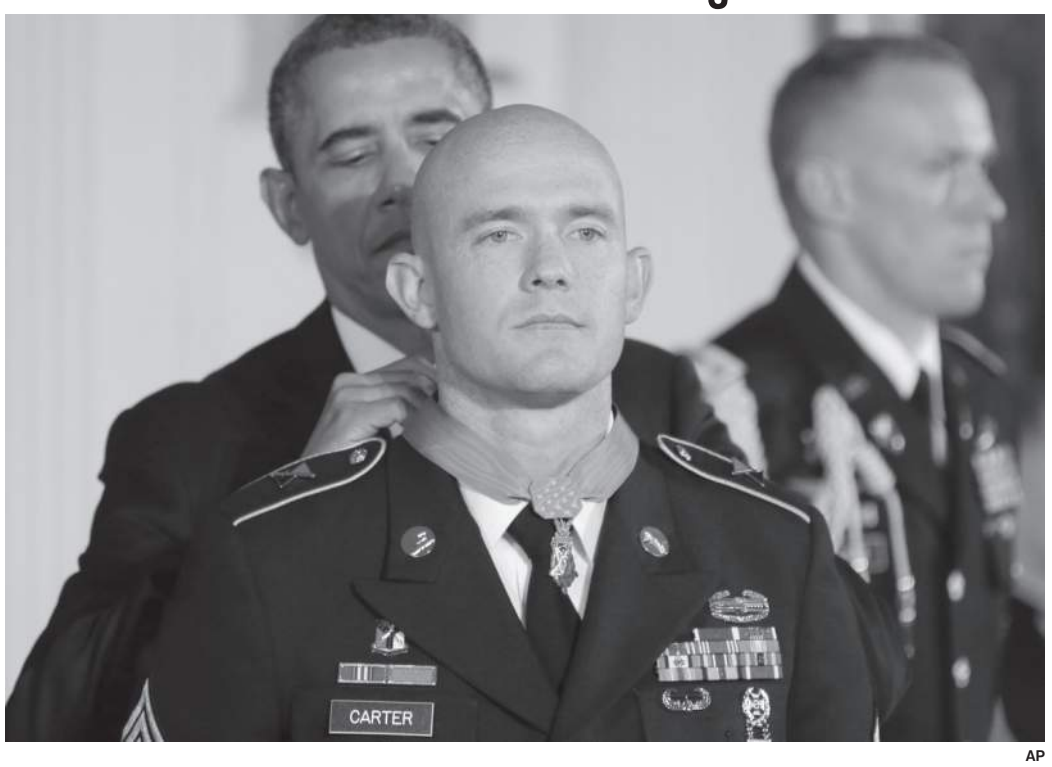
The hearing ended for the day after a dozen people testified. Hasan asked for three recesses through the day, and the judge granted two of them.

Other widows, mothers, children and siblings of the slain also are expected this week to tell the jury of 13 high-ranking military officers about their loves ones and describe the pain of living without them.

What they won't be allowed to talk about are their feelings toward Hasan or what punishment they think he deserves.

Hasan, an American-born Muslim, has admitted carrying out the attack and showed no reaction when he was found guilty. He is representing himself during his trial, yet he called no witnesses, declined to testify and questioned only three of prosecutors' nearly 90 witnesses before he was convicted.

Obama awards Medal of Honor to Afghan war veteran



AP

President Barack Obama applauds after awarding US Army Staff Sgt. Ty M. Carter, left, the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry, Monday, Aug. 26, 2013, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama bestowed the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor, on Army Staff Sgt. Ty Carter on Monday, saluting the veteran of the war in Afghanistan as "the essence of true heroism," one still engaged in a battle against the lingering emotional fallout of war.

Carter risked his life to save an injured soldier, resupply ammunition to his comrades and render first aid during intense fighting in a remote mountain outpost four years ago.

"As these soldiers and families will tell you, they're a family forged in battle, and loss, and love," Obama said as Carter stood at his side and members of his unit watched in the White House East Room.

Then as an Army specialist, Carter sprinted from his barracks into a ferocious firefight, a day-long battle on Oct. 3, 2009, that killed eight of his fellow soldiers as they tried to defend their outpost—at the bottom of a valley and surrounded by high mountains—from the onslaught of a much larger force of Taliban and local fighters.

Still suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome, Carter stood nearly emotionless during the ceremony, although a faint smile crossed his face near the end that turned into a broad grin as Obama hung the metal and its blue ribbon around his neck and the audience—which included 40 members of the recipient's family—answered with a rousing standing ovation.

Later, Carter told reporters outside the White House that receiving the medal had been "one of the greatest experiences" for his family and that he would "strive to live up to the responsibility."

He also said he wanted to help the American public to better understand the "invisible wounds" still inflicting him and thousands of others.

"Only those closest to me can see the scars," Carter said, reading his statement. He said Americans should realize that those suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome "are not damaged, they are just burdened by living when others are not."

Obama praised Carter for talking openly about the disorder for some time. Obama said that Carter, like many veterans, "at first resisted seeking help," but later accepted counseling.

"The pain of that day ... may never go away," Obama said, including flash-backs and nightmares. But he praised Carter for seeking help and pushing back, and for acknowledging his struggle publicly and helping other troops with their recovery.

Crews report progress against Yosemite fire

TUOLUMNE CITY, Calif. (AP)—Crews were finally gaining ground by late Monday on a massive wildfire burning near Yosemite National Park as officials also expressed optimism that no water or power disruptions would come from the blaze burning along the shores of the main reservoir that supplies San Francisco.

While the fire continued to grow in size, containment numbers were up, as was the positivity that firefighters were making progress, said Glen Stratton, an operations section chief on the blaze.

"It looks great out there. No concerns," Stratton said of the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

Nearly 3,700 firefighters battled the roughly 252-square-mile blaze, the biggest wildfire on record in California's Sierra Nevada. The fire was 20 percent contained.

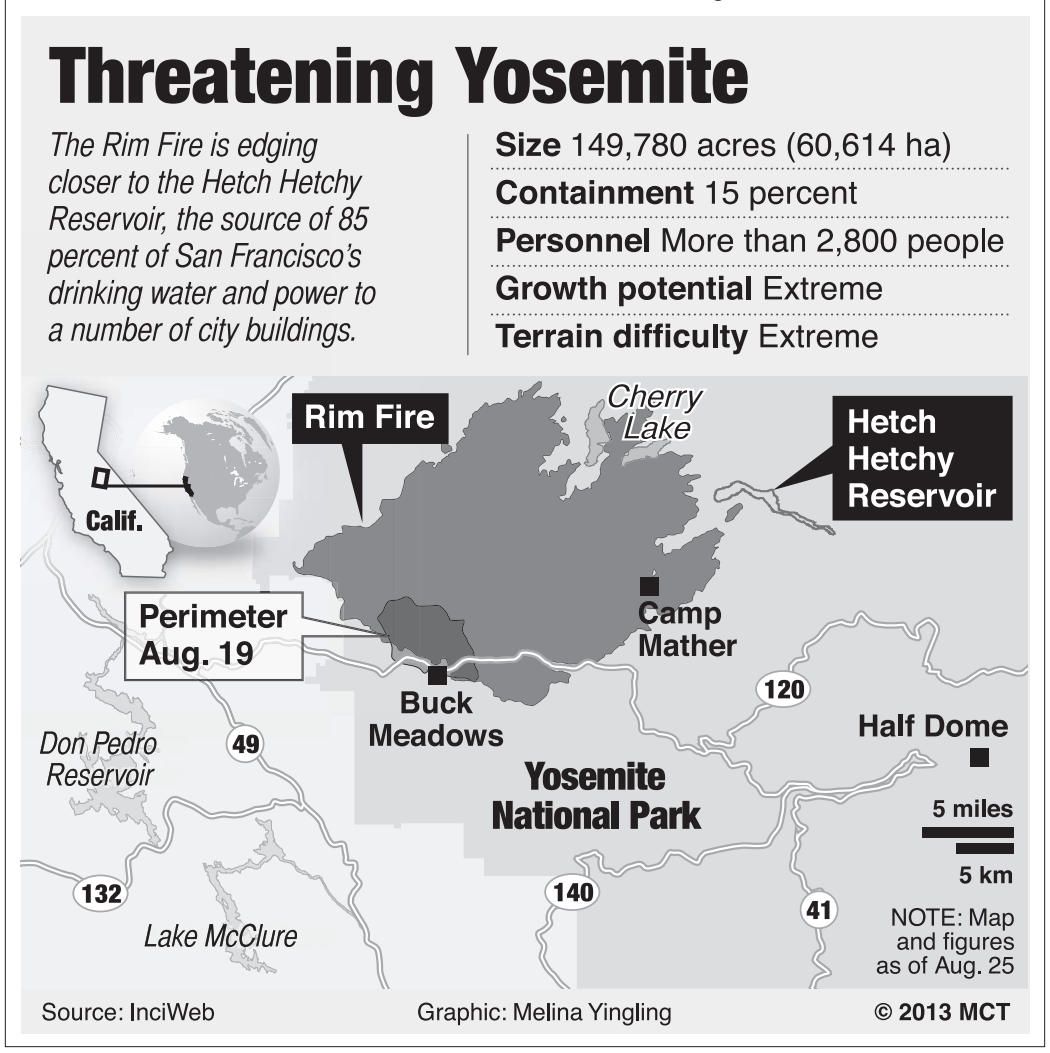
"It's been a real tiger," said Lee Bentley, fire spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service. "He's been going around trying to bite its own tail, and it won't let go but we'll get there."

While flames reached the edge of the reservoir, the chief source of San Francisco's famously pure drinking water, crews were confident they would be able to protect hydroelectric transmission lines and other utility facilities.

"I don't foresee any problems," Stratton said Monday night.

Utility officials monitored the basin's clarity and used a massive new $4.6 billion gravity-operated pipeline system to move water quickly to reservoirs closer to the big city.

So far the ash that has been raining onto the reservoir has not sunk as far as the intake valves, which are about halfway down the 300-foot O'Shaughnessy Dam. Utility officials said the ash is nontoxic but that the city will begin filtering water for customers if problems are detected.



Asia

Bo hints at love triangle as trial ends in China

JINAN, China (AP)—China's most sensational trial in decades ended with disgraced politician Bo Xilai hinting at a love triangle involving his wife and former right-hand man—both key witnesses against him—as he made last-ditch efforts to redeem his reputation.

The prosecution countered by saying Bo should be severely punished because he showed no remorse in the five-day corruption trial in the eastern city of Jinan that was aimed at capping a scandal set off by his wife's murder of a British businessman and resulting in Bo's purge from top posts and the Communist Party.

In testimony, Bo denounced both his wife, Gu Kailai, as crazy and his former police chief, Wang Lijun, as dishonest, as he has sought to portray himself as an official who worked too hard to scrutinize his family's affairs and who was surrounded by conniving, duplicitous people.

"He (Wang) was secretly in love with Gu Kailai, his emotions were tangled and he could not extricate himself," Bo told the court.

Prosecutors said Monday that the trial proceedings have shown adequate proof of Bo's guilt on charges of netting $4.3 million through bribes and embezzlement and abuse of power in interfering with the murder investigation. A date for the verdict has not been given. The corruption charges carry a maximum penalty of death, though many observers believe his sentence will be in the range of 20 years' imprisonment.

"The defendant's crimes are extremely grave, and he also refuses to admit guilt. As such, the circumstances do not call for a lenient punishment but a severe one, in accordance with the law," the prosecutor said, according to a transcript of the court proceedings.

Though Bo's downfall has widely been perceived as the result of his defeat in party infighting ahead of last fall's once-a-decade leadership transition, officials have taken unusual steps to portray his trial as a legitimate prosecution of his misdeeds, including the release of detailed, though presumably vetted, transcripts of the proceedings.

Bo mounted an unexpectedly vigorous defense against the criminal charges, recanting earlier confessions and rarely expressing contrition as he sought to lay the blame for most of the misdeeds on his wife and others. However, he refrained from using the trial as a stage to denounce the administration and his political opponents, according to the transcripts.

Most importantly, he acknowledged the party's legitimacy while holding firm to his denial of the charges—a move that at once seeks to retain his honor and appeal to party loyalists.

"I know I am not a perfect person and I had a bad temper and acted subjectively and I made serious faults and mistakes," Bo said. "I deeply feel that I failed to govern my family and it had a negative effect on the state. I sincerely accept the investigation from the party and the judicial departments, but the charge of corruption is not true."

Bo added a folksy touch to his arguments, hitting on themes of filial piety, simplicity and tradition that appeal to his support base, made up mostly of farmers and workers at the lowest rung of society who have been disillusioned by the perceived immorality of party cadres. He said the jacket he was wearing was made by a local township company in Dalian, and the pants were bought by his mother in the 1960s.

In his efforts to distance himself from Gu, he admitted an affair and said the couple had been estranged at one point.

Bo was accused, among other things, of providing political favors to a businessman, Xu Ming, in return for having him at his family's beck and call. According to Bo's wife, Xu gave the family expensive gifts that included a villa in France, international airfare to three continents, abalone dinners and a Segway scooter—and Gu said Bo knew about the gifts because she told him.

Startups gain appeal as some Japan Inc. names fade

TOKYO (AP)—In a shabby back-alley office in Shibuya, a Tokyo district known for youth culture and tech ventures, defectors from corporate Japan are hard at work for a little-known company they fervently believe will be the country's next big manufacturing success.

AP

In this Wednesday, July 24, 2013 photo, Terra Motors employee Kazuaki Konno, right, speaks as his colleague Shimpei Kato works during an interview at its headquarters in Tokyo.

Like a startup anywhere in the world, its bare-bones setup crackles with an optimistic energy and urgent sense of purpose. What's different, for Japan, is that this startup's talent is drawn from the ranks of famous companies such as Mitsubishi, Michelin and Nissan.

Kohshi Kuwahara, 26, worked for more than two years at electronics giant Panasonic Corp. before hopping to Terra Motors Corp., a little-known venture that pays far less but is out to conquer the world with its stylish electric scooters. As with his colleagues at Terra, he resiled from the hidebound culture of big Japanese companies and felt a deep sense of frustration at their eclipse by rivals such as South Korea's Samsung and America's Apple.

"If you're stuck in a system that promotes just by seniority, it's living a slow death like animals on a farm," said Kuwahara. "I wanted to be in a tough competitive place."

Despite having some of the developed world's least hospitable conditions for starting a new business, Japan's "salaryman" culture of guaranteed lifetime employment at a household-name corporation is no longer the unquestioned ideal.

Ventures are sprouting again after a decade marred by some high-profile failures and a striking aspect is their focus on manufacturing. Facebook and Google they are not. They are Sony and Toyota, all over again—but with young fresh faces.

Terra Motors founder and president Toru Tokushige, 43, said one sign of progress for startups is that these days they have no problems recruiting quality people.

A few years ago, all he could hire were what Japan categorized as the losers, those who had no hopes of getting hired at an established company. As Sony Corp. and other mainstream brands lose their luster, Terra is gaining a chance to shine.

Tokushige's 15 employees now hail from top-name companies, and the interns are enrolled in Hitotsubashi, one of Japan's top universities.

He acknowledges that plans for his tiny company to break into global markets still sound a little crazy by mainstream Japanese standards. But he believes his way of doing business is superior to bigger companies, where decision-making tends to be bureaucratic, slow and oriented toward avoiding risks.

"Mainstream companies started out as ventures. That means old-time Japanese did it," he said of the humble beginnings of Honda, Sony, Panasonic and All Nippon Airways. "We can do it, too."

At their former employers, Tokushige's workers felt stifled, although they were promised stability, status and money. They knew what they could contribute was limited, while at Terra, they can hope to make a crucial and tangible contribution.

"What we want to do is create another Sony or another Honda," said Kazuaki Konno, 35, an engineer who worked previously at Nissan Motor Co. and Boston Consulting before joining Terra.

At a shareholders' meeting in June, Sony President Kazuo Hirai was asked by an investor about an alleged exodus of talent from the company. The investor expressed worries about continued creativity at Sony. Hirai reiterated he would do all he could to keep innovation going, but he did not deny the allegation.

Such defectors are setting a trend, said author Ryuichi Kino, who has written books about the Japanese auto and nuclear industries, and is working on a book about the advent of career switches and job-hopping in Japan.

"These people are searching for their place. For those with talent, they would rather go where they are wanted than endure suffering where they are," he said.

The office of Terra Motors is a tiny room in a building in the crammed slummy Shibuya district known as "Bit Valley," Japan's equivalent of Silicon Valley for housing startups.

Recently, Terra came out with an electric scooter targeting emerging markets that connects to smartphones to gather location-based and electricity-consumption data. They charge from a regular plug outlet.

Terra, set up in 2010, received investment capital from top funds, including one run by former Sony President Nobuyuki Idei. It already has top market share in electric scooters in Japan, and is eyeing overseas markets including Vietnam, India and the Philippines.

Its success so far is against the odds.

The World Bank, in ranking the ease with which a new business can be started, scored Japan 114th among 185 economies. New Zealand was at the top, and the U.S. was No. 13. Singapore was fourth, while Ghana was 112th.

Japan's initial public offerings, at 36 in 2011, make for a fraction of the numbers in the U.S. at 134, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Adding to the obstacles, the prevailing message for the past decade in Japan was that startups were not to be trusted.

The ones that used to get attention tended to be video-game companies such as Gree Inc., which got slammed over the alleged anti-social addictiveness of its games, and the wayward, such as Net services company Livedoor, whose founder was arrested in a securities fraud scandal.

It is only recently that some vigor has returned to ventures. Part of the explanation may be the renewed focus on manufacturing.

Japan's four decades of industrial success after World War II were followed by more than two decades of stagnation, mainly because of the absence of innovation, said Masazumi Ishii, managing director of AZCA Inc., a California consulting firm specializing in international corporate development.

For innovations to happen, poorly performing large companies need to be allowed to fail, and innovative smaller companies must be nurtured and funded, he said.

The technological prowess is there. Japan still produces its share of Nobel Prize winners, ranking eighth in the world, and Japan's top universities file as many patents as do top U.S. universities, according to Ishii.

"Japan has the capability to innovate. But the problem is that this capability does not translate to commercial value."

China arrests British, American investigators

BEIJING (AP)—Two corporate investigators, a Briton and an American, have been arrested in Shanghai on charges of illegally selling personal information about Chinese citizens, police announced Tuesday.

The announcement was the Chinese government's first word on Peter Humphrey and Yingzeng Yu, a married couple who operate ChinaWhys Ltd., an investigation firm in Shanghai that serves corporate clients. They were detained in July.

The communist Beijing government operates an extensive surveillance network to track China's public but is tightening controls on access to personal information by companies and individuals.

Communist leaders were embarrassed last year by news reports that disclosed details of the family wealth of Xi Jinping, the new ruling party leader, and retiring Premier Wen Jiabao.

Earlier, several Chinese companies complained about investigations into their operations that led to a fall in their share prices on foreign stock exchanges.

Several dozen reports prepared by Humphrey and Yu contained information that "seriously violated the legitimate rights of citizens," the Shanghai police department said in a statement. It said they were formally arrested on Aug. 16.

That included home addresses and information on family members, real estate and vehicles, the statement said. It said they were sold to clients including manufacturers, law firms and financial institutions.

The British Embassy in Beijing confirmed last week that Humphrey was arrested but gave no details of charges. The embassy said it was providing unspecified consular assistance to his family.

The detentions coincided with the announcement in July of an investigation into possible bribery of doctors by employees of pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline. That prompted suggestions their case might be linked to Glaxo, but Tuesday's announcement made no mention of that.

World

UN at site of alleged chemical attack in Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—U.N. experts collected samples and testimony from Syrian doctors and victims of an alleged chemical weapons attack Monday following a treacherous journey through government and rebel-held territory, where their convoy was hit by snipers.

As U.S. officials said there was very little doubt that Syria used chemical weapons and Western powers stepped up calls for swift military action, President Bashar Assad's government vowed to defend itself against any international attack, warning that such an intervention would ignite turmoil across the region.

It also would bring the U.S. closer to a conflict that has killed more than 100,000 people since Assad cracked down on Arab Spring-inspired protesters in March 2011.

Syria's civil war has been increasingly defined by sectarian killings between the Sunni-led rebellion and Assad's regime, dominated by Alawites, an offshoot of Shiite Islam.

It would essentially pit the U.S. and regional allies Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar in a proxy war against Iran, which is providing weapons to the Syrian government's counterinsurgency, along with Hezbollah, the militant Lebanese group that also has aided Assad's forces militarily.

Deputy Foreign Minister Faysal Mikdad told The Associated Press in an interview in Damascus that such an attack would trigger "chaos in the entire world."

"If individual countries want to pursue aggressive and adventurous policies, the natural answer ... would be that Syria, which has been fighting against terrorism for almost three years, will also defend itself against any international attack," he added.

Assad told a Russian newspaper that any military campaign against his country was destined to fail.

It's also unclear what U.S. action would mean for relations with Russia, which warned Monday against the use of force not sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council, calling it "a crude violation of international law."

Support for some sort of international military response was likely to grow if it is confirmed that Assad's regime was responsible for the Aug. 21 attack in the Damascus suburbs that activists say killed hundreds of people. The group Doctors Without Borders put the death toll at 355.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said chemical weapons were used in Syria and he accused Assad's regime of destroying evidence. He said the U.S. has additional information about the attack and will make it public in the days ahead.

"The indiscriminate slaughter of civilians, the killing of women and children and innocent bystanders by chemical weapons is a moral obscenity. By any standard, it is inexcusable and—despite the excuses and equivocations that some have manufactured—it is undeniable," said Kerry, the highest-ranking U.S. official to confirm the attack.

"This international norm cannot be violated without consequences," he said.

Rural Andean churches plagued by sacred art theft

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—The thieves tunneled under the thick walls of the colonial-era Roman Catholic church in the tiny southern Bolivian town of San Miguel de Tomave, emerged through the floor and made off with five 18th-century oil paintings of inestimable value.

It was the third time the highlands church had been plundered of sacred art since 2007. Most of the finely-etched silver that once graced its altar was already gone.

"Who would have thought they would take the canvases, too?" the Rev. Francisco Dubert, the parish priest, asked of the 2-meter-by-1.75-meter oils depicting the Virgin Mary.

Increasingly bold thefts plague colonial churches in remote Andean towns in Bolivia and Peru, where authorities say cultural treasures are disappearing at an alarming rate. At least 10 churches have been hit so far this year in the two culturally rich but economically poor countries.

"We think the thefts are being done on behalf of collectors," said the Rev. Salvador Piniero, archbishop of Peru's highlands Ayacucho province. Religious and cultural authorities say criminal bands are stealing "to order" for foreigners.

Bolivian churches have been robbed 38 times of 447 objects since 2009—of highly stylized decorative silverwork, canvases, polished gold and silver altar pieces and gem-encrusted jewelry, said the country's cultural patrimony chief, Lupe Meneses.

In Peru, at least 30 thefts from churches and chapels have been reported since January 2012, including two this month: Churches in Ayacucho and Puno provinces were robbed of ornamental silver laminate, or gold and silver crowns, earrings and necklaces.

AP

In this Aug. 21, 2013 file photo, workers from the Culture Ministry display a recovered 18th century painting by an anonymous artist depicting Jesus in La Paz, Bolivia.

In Tomave, other canvases were left behind, Dubert said, indicating the thieves knew exactly what they wanted. "These churches are being robbed because terrible people want to own beautiful things." Donna Yates, a University of Glasgow archaeologist blogged afterward.

Yates, who is studying the Andes thefts for a global, European Union-funded project, said the hemorrhaging of priceless ecclesiastical art in the region has continued at a steady pace "but it's getting more brazen."

"Who is behind it? I can't say," Yates added. "The market for these goods is in Europe and the United States," she says, with Santa Fe, New Mexico, one destination as a magnet for collectors of Latin American art.

Cultural officials in the Andes have long struggled to protect Incan and pre-Columbian cultural treasures. Now, colonial sacred art has become a similar worry. By law, it is all national patrimony, its export illegal.

Where possible, churches are being fortified. Video cameras were installed and nighttime guards posted last year at Ayacucho's main cathedral in Huamanga, host to Peru's biggest annual religious pilgrimage.

But poor, rural parishes are on their own, particularly along the highlands plateau where Spanish colonial missionaries built isolated settlements.

In January, church thieves stole 12 gold crowns and a pair of silver shoes of a baby Jesus statue in the isolated Ayacucho town of Santo Domingo de Chungui, said regional culture director Mario Cueto.

He appealed afterward "for greater monitoring on highways and at international airports." But the thefts almost always go unsolved.

In one of the most audacious thefts, national treasures disappeared in April from the Church of the Virgin of Copacabana on Lake Titicaca.

A wooden 16th-century statue of Bolivia's patron saint was stripped of 18 precious jewels worth an estimated $1 million by thieves who poisoned two mastiffs and laced the parish workers' evening meal with tranquilizers. While everyone slept, the thieves broke a window and gained entry with a ladder.

A visiting priest and the female owner of a hostel where he was staying were arrested in the theft. Prosecutors say they are suspected of assisting a criminal gang.

Most targets are more like the Tomave church, unprotected by anything more than a lock and chain on the door when last burgled in December. Most are built above 13,100 feet and at least 60 miles from the nearest police station. As for burglar alarms, electricity is unreliable when it exists at all.

"Security is impossible," said Yates. "You are left with the kind of situation where you could either try to take all the goods out of these rural churches, which is ethnically questionable because you are taking people's heritage away from them."

Even if the art were removed, there is no place to safely store it.

Not even the La Merced church in Bolivia's southern regional capital of Potosi, whose silver mine was once the Spanish empire's economic engine, was immune from one of the year's biggest heists.

Palestinians say round of talks halted after clash

QALANDIA REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank (AP)—Palestinian officials said they called off a planned round of peace talks Monday after Israeli soldiers killed three protesters during clashes following an arrest raid in the West Bank.

But in comments that suggested the meeting had gone ahead as planned, State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf said that "no meetings have been canceled. We've been clear that the two parties are engaged in serious and sustained negotiations."

Israeli officials refused to comment.

The violence, the deadliest incident in the area in years, dealt a new blow to U.S.-led peace efforts, which resumed late last month after a nearly five-year break. Palestinian officials have accused the Israelis of stonewalling and using the process as a cover to build new Jewish settlements. The deaths of Palestinians further soured the atmosphere.

It was not known when talks will resume, but Palestinian officials said the break was expected to be brief. They spoke anonymously as they were not authorized to talk to media.

Monday's clashes broke out when Israeli forces entered the Qalandia refugee camp, just outside of Jerusalem, on an overnight arrest raid. Shai Hakimi, a spokesman for the paramilitary border police, said hundreds of Palestinians poured into the streets and hurled firebombs, concrete blocks and rocks at officers.

The Israeli military said soldiers rushed to the scene to provide backup and opened fire after they felt their lives were in "imminent danger."

An official at a Ramallah hospital confirmed three deaths and more than a dozen wounded. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

Hatim Khatib, whose brother Youssef was arrested in the raid, told The Associated Press that undercover troops dressed in civilian clothes arrived at their home at 4:30 a.m. looking for the brother.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egyptian Islamist groups seek truce with army

CAIRO (AP)—Two former militant groups offered to call off street protests if the government agrees to ease its pressure on Islamists, a move that underscores how a one-time strong Islamist movement is now bowing to an unprecedented crackdown by security authorities. The proposal comes after the military rounded up hundreds of Muslim Brotherhood leaders and other Islamists in the wake of the country's worst bout of violence, which followed the Aug. 14 clearing of two sprawling sit-in camps housing protesters calling for the reinstatement of ousted President Mohammed Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected leader.

Migrants tell of ordeal in train crash; 6 dead

CHONTALPA, México (AP)—Hundreds of Central Americans riding atop a cargo train in hopes of getting to the U.S. were being threatened and extorted by armed men before the train derailed and killed at least six, survivors told The Associated Press on Monday. Many who had sneaked onto the train known as "The Beast" were thrown loose when eight of its 12 cars derailed as it hauled tons of metal junk through a remote, swampy stretch of southern Mexico, witnesses said. At least some of the dead were trapped because they had tied themselves on to avoid slipping as they rode between cars.

Focus

Firing missiles at enemies usually doesn't produce a declaration of war

By MICHAEL DOYLE
MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The United States will enter a state of war with Syria if cruise missiles start flying, no matter what the operation is called.

War, in turn, will legally empower Syria to act in self-defense; perhaps in some unexpected ways.

But while a U.S.-led attack appears increasingly likely, the legal underpinnings for lethal action remain ambiguous. Congress won't formally declare war. The last time it did that was 1941, when America entered World War II.

Lawmakers might consider authorizing force after they return from summer recess Sept. 9, but missiles could easily launch before then. Russian or Chinese resistance could block United Nations Security Council approval.

All of which add to the complications now confronting the White House.

"The president and his close advisers talk a lot about international law," Mary Ellen O'Connell, a professor of international law at the University of Notre Dame, said in an interview Monday, "so I don't see how the president can ignore that now without seeming to be hypocritical."

The Obama administration, though, has already shown a willingness to dance around legal restraints.

In March 2011, for instance, U.S. ships and warplanes began participating in an international air assault on Libya. The U.S. contribution to the six-month-long campaign included cruise missiles, drone strikes, bombers, fighters and more. Nonetheless, the State Department's top legal adviser insisted the actions didn't amount to "hostilities," a legally significant term.

Using logic that could recur with Syria, then-legal adviser Harold Koh told a skeptical Senate Foreign Relations Committee in June 2011 that the "limited exposure for U.S. troops, limited risk of serious escalation and … limited military means" meant the Libyan campaign didn't amount to hostile action. As a result, Obama asserted that he didn't have to comply with the War Powers Resolution's requirement that U.S. troops be withdrawn within 60 days of the start of hostilities unless Congress authorizes action.

"'Hostilities' is an ambiguous term of art," Koh testified.

Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, countered at the time that the administration was "sticking a stick in the eye of Congress."

On Monday, speaking on MSNBC, Corker said he believes a U.S. "response is imminent" on Syria and added that he believes administration officials preparing for what he called a "surgical" military operation in the Middle Eastern nation of more than 22 million "do not need an authorization, but I hope they will come for one."

The War Powers Resolution permits the president to introduce U.S. forces into hostile action with a congressional declaration of war, a congressional authorization for use of force or in the event of a foreign attack on the United States or its forces. Once hostilities start, presidents have 60 days to act before they either remove the troops or get congressional approval.

In the international arena, two circumstances generally permit war making: national self-defense and action authorized by the U.N. Security Council.

Self-defense doesn't apply in the Syrian case, O'Connell said, because "the use of chemical weapons within Syria is not an armed attack on the United States."

Security Council authorization of international action requires the support of nine member nations on the 15-member panel. However, any of the five permanent members, which include China and Russia as well as the United States, can veto any proposed action. That seems likely in the case of Syria.

"Using force without the approval of the U.N. Security Council is a very grave violation of international law," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters Monday at a Moscow news conference.

In 1999, Russia blocked U.N. Security Council support for military action in Kosovo, in the former Yugoslavia. The United States and other NATO countries, nonetheless, undertook a 78-day air war that ended with the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces.

Russia also resisted a 2003 Bush administration push for a key Security Council resolution targeting Iraq. As with Kosovo, the U.S.-led war proceeded regardless of the council's inaction.

"The U.N. Security Council is not the sole custodian of what is legal and appropriate," Council on Foreign Relations President Richard Haas said Monday, adding that the legitimacy of a U.S.-led attack "would rest on the case that Syria's use of chemical weapons violated international law."

On Monday, Secretary of State John Kerry did not elaborate on what legal basis might support a potential U.S.-led attack, but he also cited Syria's use of the "most heinous weapons against the most vulnerable victims." The word "heinous" is often invoked in international debate over chemical weapons.

The Chemical Weapons Convention bans the development, production and use of chemical weapons. The United States and 188 other nations have ratified this treaty. Others have not.

Israel signed the chemical weapons treaty but has not ratified it. Syria and four other countries, including North Korea, have neither signed nor ratified the treaty. Technically, this means Syria is not voluntarily bound by the treaty's proscription against chemical weapons production and use. O'Connell added, though, that the international opposition toward chemical weapons is sufficiently serious to provide meaningful sanctions against any country that uses them.

Wars, declared and otherwise

The U.S. has formally declared war eight times since 1900; the start of some U.S. armed conflicts since then:

□ Declared war ◇ Congress authorized use of force ○ U.N., NATO or other multinational operation

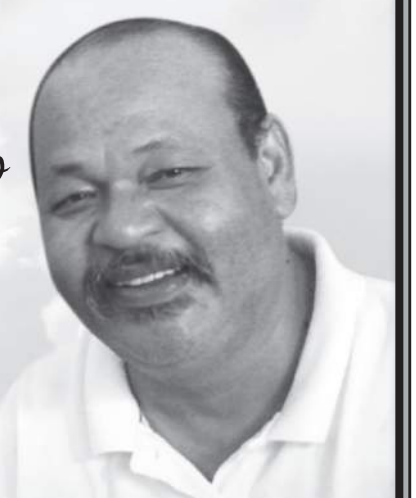
- □ **1917** World War I (Germany, Austria-Hungary)
- □ **1941** World War II (Japan, Germany, Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria)
- ○ **1951** Korean War
- ◇ **1964** Tonkin Gulf Resolution for military action in Vietnam
- ○ **1982** Marines deployed to Lebanon
- ◇ **1983** Troops deployed to Grenada to "restore law and order"
- ◇ **1989** Troops sent to Panama to oust Gen. Manuel Noriega
- ○ **1991** Persian Gulf War
- ○ **1992** Troops sent to Somalia to aid in political reconciliation
- ○ **1993** Enforce U.N military flight ban over Bosnia-Herzegovina
- ◇ **1994** Troops deployed to Haiti to restore democracy
- ○ **1999** Airstrikes to counter Yugoslavia's actions in Kosovo
- ○ **2001** Afghanistan War
- ○ **2003** Iraq War

Source: Congressional Research Service Graphic: Judy Treible © 2013 MCT

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

Noel Ouichocho Taisacan



We, the family of the late Noel Q. Taisacan, humbly invite all of our relatives, friends and acquaintances to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first year death anniversary of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily Mass will be offered at 6:00 pm at San Vicente Church, beginning Wednesday, August 28, 2013 through Thursday, September 5, 2013.

On the final day, Thursday, September 5, 2013, dinner will be served immediately after the mass at the San Vicente Social Hall.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence will forever be appreciated.

Lydia B. Taisacan & Children

Campus Life

As price of college rises, so does federal aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—With college costs continuing to rise, more students are receiving federal financial aid, though state and institutional aid remains largely flat

Data released Tuesday by the National Center for Education Statistics, a branch of the U.S. Department of Education, shows 71 percent of all undergraduate students received some type of financial aid in the 2011-12 school year, up from 66 percent four years earlier.

Forty-two percent of students received federal grants, up from 28 percent, and 40 percent received federal loans, an increase of 5 percentage points.

LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Spencer Simpson, left, and Kashawn Campbell chat before their African American studies class.

Meanwhile, 15 percent received state grants and 20 percent received a grant from the college or university they attend—figures that have remained essentially unchanged since the 2007-08 school year.

Among full-time, dependent students, access to state grants actually declined, from 29 percent to 26 percent.

"I think these last four years were very tough for states, and certainly we weren't surprised," said Jack Buckley, commissioner of the NCES.

The data comes just weeks after President Barack Obama signed a law restoring lower interest rates for millions of college students. The law links student loan interest rates to the financial markets, meaning rates will be lower this fall because the government can borrow money cheaply at this time. However, student loans could become more costly if the economy continues to improve, and interest rates increase.

The law covers an estimated 18 million loans totaling some $106 billion.

The new NCES data shows that college costs are still going up: In-state tuition at community college jumped almost 6 percent, to an average of $3,131 last year; in-state tuition at a public, four-year college averaged $8,655, up 5 percent; and private, four-year school tuition and fees averaged $29,056, a 4 percent increase.

Those figures, however, cover only part of college costs. According to a College Board survey, the price of housing and food is even higher than tuition for in-state students at public universities. With the added costs of food, housing, books, supplies and transportation, the total cost to attend an in-state public college was $17,860 last year.

"Increasing federal student aid alone will not control the cost of college," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said. "All of us share responsibility for ensuring that college is affordable."

Duncan said the new data "is a reminder that we need state policymakers and individual colleges and universities to do their part in taking action against rising college tuition."

The average student received $10,800 in aid in 2011-12, up from $9,100 in 2008-09, according to NCES. That includes federal and state grants and loans, plus work-study jobs and veterans' benefits.

Tuition isn't only bill students see

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite all the grumbling about tuition increases and student loan costs, other college expenses also are going up.

The price of housing and food trumps tuition costs for students who attend two- and four-year public universities in their home states, according to a College Board survey. Even with the lower interest rates on student loans that President Barack Obama signed into law, students are eyeing bills that are growing on just about every line.

A look at typical college students' budgets last year and how they're changing:

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The public two-year schools charged in-state students an average $3,131 last year, up almost 6 percent from the previous year. While the tuition hike was larger than at other types of schools, students at community colleges saw the smallest increase in room and board costs—a 1 percent increase to $7,419. Total charges for students to attend an in-state public two-year school: $10,550.

Tuition and fees at community colleges are up 24 percent beyond overall inflation over the past five years, according to the College Board.

PUBLIC FOUR-YEAR SCHOOLS

Tuition for students attending public four-year schools in their state was an average $8,655 last year, a 5 percent jump from the previous year. They paid more than that—$9,205—for housing and food. These schools, like other four-year schools, posted a 4 percent jump in housing costs. Add in books and supplies, transportation and other costs and the total reaches $17,860 to attend an in-state public school, such as a student from Tallahassee attending Florida State University. When grants and scholarships are included, the average student pays $12,110 at such schools.

For students who choose to attend state schools outside their home state, the costs increase to $30,911. They pay the same $9,205 price tag for room and board, but the tuition rates are more expensive. The typical student who crossed state lines to attend a public college in 2012 paid $21,706 in tuition and fees after grants and scholarships—a 4 percent jump from the previous year.

Over the past five years, the tuition sticker price at public four-year colleges is up 27 percent beyond overall inflation.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

On the surface, private four-year schools are the most costly colleges, with the average student's sticker price coming in at $39,518 for all expenses. Tuition and fees were $29,056 last year—another 4 percent jump—while room and board ran to $10,462. After grants and scholarships, the average student paid $23,840 to attend schools such as Yale or Stanford.

The tuition at private schools was up 13 percent beyond overall inflation over the past five years adjusted for inflation.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Celebration of His New Life

Enrique Borja Cruz

Better known as "Iki Okoro" or "Iki Dasu"

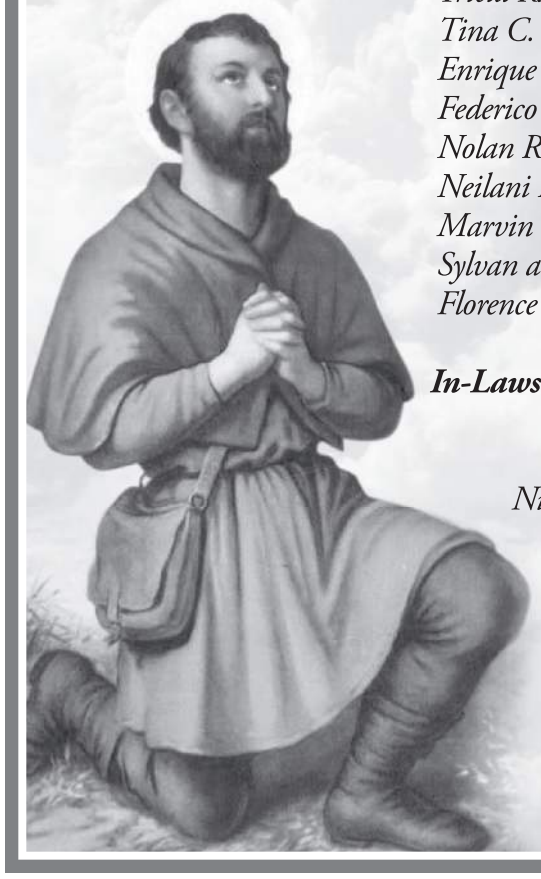
Born on September 29, 1944, Peacefully joined his creator on August 22, 2013

In his new life, he now joins his:

Wife: *†Ana Rangamar Cruz*
Daughter: *†Margaret R. Cruz*
Parents: *†Federico and †Antonia B. Cruz*
Parents-in-Law: *†Ernesto and †Maria I. Rangamar*
Siblings: *†Ana C. and Vicente Arriola, †Antonio Cruz, †Mariana C. and †Roberto Guzman, †Ricardo and †Gemma Cruz, †Monica C. Lizama, & †Maria Cruz*
In-Laws: *†Dolores R. and† Joaquin W. Rabauliman, †Luis I. Rangamar, †Lorenzo I. Rangamar, †Vicente I. Rangamar, †Delgadina R. Rios and †Francisco Rios, †Fidelia R. Merur & †Ricardo I. Rangamar*

His loving memory will forever live in the hearts of his:

Sisters: *Susana C. and Isidro T. Cabrera , Candelaria C. and Daniel Jose*
Children: *Ernest Patrick R. Cruz and Rita I. (Children)*
Zenovia C. Deleon Guerrero and Jesus DLG (Children & Grandchildren)
Tricia Rangamar and Ike Epina (Children)
Tina C. Rahman and Habibur R. (Children & Grandchildren)
Enrique R. Cruz Jr. (Children)
Federico R. Cruz and Xiao Fang Y. (Children)
Nolan R. Cruz and Lisa DLG (Children)
Neilani R. Cruz and Emiling L.
Marvin R. Cruz and Lori Ann B. (Children)
Sylvan and Adora Tudela
Florence Cepeda (Children)



In-Laws: *Lourdes M. Rangamar, Rafael I. Rangamar, Daniel I. Rangamar & Emiliana K. Rangamar*

Nightly Rosary is at 7:30 pm at Federico Cruz residence located at Garapan next to YCO Hardware. On August 31, 2013, Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 am at Kristo Rai Church.

Please join us in prayers.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Ghilisoow
THE FAMILY

Life & Style

Zurich begins its experiment with drive-in 'sex boxes'

ZURICH (AP)—No car, no sex.

That's the rule for an experiment Zurich is launching Monday to make prostitution less of a public nuisance and safer for women.

Switzerland has long been famous for its mountaineering, chocolate and precision watches, but a lesser known aspect is its legal prostitution since 1942, for which its largest city is one of the main centers in Europe.

Fashionably teak-colored open wooden garages, popularly called "sex boxes" by the Swiss media, will be open for business for drive-in customers. The several dozen sex workers who are expected to make it their new hub will stand along a short road in a small, circular park for clients to choose from and negotiate with. The park was built in a former industrial area nestled between a rail yard and the fence along a major highway.

The publicly funded facilities—open all night and located away from the city center—include bathrooms, lockers, small cafe tables and a laundry and shower. Men won't have to worry about video surveillance cameras, but the sex workers—who will need a permit and pay a small tax—will be provided with a panic button and on-site social workers trained to look after them.

As far as Daniel Hartmann, a Zurich lawyer, is concerned, it's a win-win situation.

"Safety for the prostitutes. At least it's a certain kind of a shelter for them. They can do their business, and I respect them," he said. "They do a great job, and they have better working conditions here. ... They're not exposed to the bosses, to the pimps, in here."

On Saturday, Hartmann was one of several hundred residents, including many women and a small throng of journalists, who flocked to the only "open house" that Zurich will offer to give the public a better idea of how its taxpayer money has been used.

Most of the visitors said they came out of curiosity and haven't really come to terms with the idea, but hope it will at least improve safety. Others were amazed and a bit amused that a whole group of strangers would spend a rainy afternoon openly discussing professional sex.

Brigitta Hanselmann, a retired special needs school teacher from Embrach, Switzerland, said: "I have to think about it for a long time, because it's so incredible that a city offers that to the men, and it's interesting that there are many, many women here who are looking at it." She called the sex boxes "an effort to control a thing that you can't really control."

Voters in Zurich approved spending up to 2.4 million Swiss francs ($2.6 million) on the project last year as a way of relocating the sex traffic away from a busy downtown area where it had become a public nuisance and safety concern due to lack of sanitation, aggressive men, and associated drugs and violence. The city, which only allows prostitution in certain areas, also plans to spend 700,000 francs ($760,000) a year to keep the sex boxes running.

Jean-Marc Hensch, a business executive who heads a neighborhood association in another part of Zurich, said he hopes the sex boxes succeed because otherwise the prostitutes might return to his area. He also cited the disgusting lack of sanitation in other city areas where prostitutes and their clients defecate and urinate in the streets and gardens, or have sex in the open because they have nowhere else to go.

"It's an experiment," he said. "It was absolutely urgent to find a solution."

The drive-in garages, or sheds, have no doors to shut and come equipped with an emergency call button on the passenger side of the structure that sets off a flashing light and a loud alarm inside an adjacent office building where the city will post social workers specially trained to provide a measure of security. The Zurich police say they will beef up patrols around the perimeter to protect the sex workers when they leave and enter.

Modeled after the drive-in brothels used in several cities in Germany and the Netherlands, which have had mixed success improving safety, the sex boxes will be open daily from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. The city painted the outdoor bathrooms in soft pink and blue, strung colorful light bulbs among the trees and posted creative signs encouraging the use of condoms to spruce the place up a little and make it seem more pleasant.

"We built the place to be secure for the sex workers. It also had to be discreet for the sex workers and the clientele," said Michael Herzig of Zurich's social welfare department. "But we thought if we build the place, we can also make it look good."

Along with improving safety for prostitutes, the sex boxes are seen as a way to curb illegal trafficking among crime syndicates. Prostitution, escorts and massage parlors are a thriving business in a nation with wealthy and international clientele and tourists.

Zurich requires that street sex workers register with city and health authorities, and it offers health checks and requires that sex workers be at least 18 years old, in keeping with a Council of Europe convention on protecting children from exploitation and abuse.

In Switzerland, anyone who works in the sex trade must be at least 16, the legal age of sexual maturity. The income is taxed and subject to social insurance like any other economic activity.

AP

In this Saturday, Aug. 24, 2013 photo, a poster hangs in an open, wooden, garage-style "sex box" in Zurich, Switzerland.

In Loving Memory

†Elizabeth Sablan Torres-Untalan

Lovingly known as "Beck/Liz"
May 2, 1953 – August 26, 2013

In Her New Life, She Now Joins:
†William Salas Torres
†Rosa Sablan Torres
†Joaquin Sablan Torres
†William Gerard Torres

Her Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of Her:
Spouse: **Pedro T. Untalan**, Children and Grandchildren

Siblings and Spouses:
Juan S. Torres & Janet F. Torres and Children and Grandchildren
Joaquin S. Torres & Diane V. Torres, Children and Grandchildren
Maria T. Persson & Jon G. Persson, Children and Grandchildren
Ramon S. Torres & Lillian Wong
William S. Torres & Priscilla M. Torres and Children

Beck will also be remembered in her new life by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren, and friends at home and afar.

Eucharistic celebration is being offered at Kristo Rai Church daily at 6:00 a.m. from August 26 thru September 2, 2013. Memorial Mass will be celebrated on September 3, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

Please join Beck's family in daily prayers at her Kristo Rai Parish

Miley Cyrus, Justin Timberlake own the MTV VMAs

NEW YORK (AP)—Miley Cyrus' memorable moment at the MTV Video Music Awards may not have been good for her, but it was great for MTV and social media.

An estimated 10.1 million people watched the annual program Sunday night, up 66 percent over last year for a show that is fueled by the buzz from talked-about moments, the Nielsen company said.

And few were talked about more than the former child star, who twerked, gyrated, stripped and swayed during her moment in the spotlight. Twitter said a new record for tweets per minute—some 306,000—was set during Cyrus' medley of her own "We Can't Stop" and a duet with Robin Thicke on "Blurred Lines." It broke a record set by Beyonce during her Super Bowl halftime performance.

Cyrus eclipsed Lady Gaga's opening performance of her new single, Katy Perry's closing rendition of her latest hit and Kanye West's artsy set. The 20-year-old even grabbed more attention than Justin Timberlake's reunion with his 'N Sync band mates.

In her eye-popping performance, Cyrus stripped down to a nude bikini, grinded on Thicke and made suggestive moves with a foam hand. The wild child also slapped a girl's butt onstage.

With all the suggestive moves, MTV made one edit: censoring the lyric "Molly" in Cyrus' "We Can't Stop." That's considered a slang reference to the drug Ecstasy.

Within hours, the Buzzfeed site was posting the "15 Weirdest and Craziest Moments" from Cyrus' performance, which was aired live from the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

"Amazing. I thought it was awesome," fellow former child star Selena Gomez said backstage of Cyrus' performance. "I love Robin Thicke, too, so I like that they collab'd."

The watchdog group Parents Television Council, which lists Cyrus' dad, Billy Ray Cyrus, on its advisory board, criticized MTV for serving up sex to young viewers.

AP

Miley Cyrus performs at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, at the Barclays Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

"How is this image of former child star Miley Cyrus appropriate for 14-year-olds?" said Dan Isett, public policy director for the PTC.

Artist to watch winner Austin Mahone also seemed to enjoy the performance: "I thought it was pretty creative. I thought it was pretty cool."

Brooke Shields, who played Cyrus' mom in a few episodes of "Hannah Montana" on the Disney Channel, took note of that on the "Today" show Monday: "I was Hannah Montana's mom! Where did I go wrong?"

On MSNBC's "Morning Joe," co-host Mika Brzezinski said that the performance was "disgusting and embarrassing," and that people involved should be ashamed.

Though they were attention grabbers and nominated for four moonmen each, Thicke and Cyrus walked away empty-handed Sunday night.

Timberlake earned three awards, including video of the year and best male video for "Mirrors." Days ahead of the VMAs, his rumored reunion with 'N Sync dominated headlines, and he and his former band mates delivered at the awards show.

As Timberlake performed a medley of his solo hits, JC Chasez, Lance Bass, Joey Fatone and Chris Kirkpatrick emerged from the bottom of the stage in suits to sing some lines from their hits "Girlfriend" and "Bye, Bye, Bye." Gomez, Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga and possibly the entire venue were giddy as the members of the boy band danced like they did a decade ago. Even rappers Wiz Khalifa and Juicy J admitted on the red carpet they were excited to see 'N Sync hit the stage.

"Half of the moonmen I've ever won, I won with those four guys right there," Timberlake said of his band mates when he accepted the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award. "So above all else, I'm going to share this—we can keep it my house—but I'm going to share this award with them."

Cyrus wasn't the only pop singer with edge at the VMAs. Swift also turned heads. The 23-year-old, who won best female video, appeared to utter an expletive to Gomez when Swift's rumored ex, One Direction member Harry Styles, was onstage. The boy band also earned boos when it won best song of the summer for "Best Song Ever," beating out Gomez, Thicke, Cyrus, Daft Punk and Calvin Harris.

Rapper A$AP Rocky also provided an awkward moment Sunday when standing next to NBA player Jason Collins, who were both announcing Macklemore & Ryan Lewis' performance. Collins, who is the first active player in the NBA to say he was gay, spoke about coming out as A$AP Rocky looked uncomfortable.

"The next artist is a good friend of mine and he stands up for everything he believes in as far as everybody being equal, color, homosexuality," the rapper said as he pointed to Collins in another awkward moment.

But that was followed with a touching performance of Macklemore & Ryan Lewis' same-sex anthem "Same Love." It featured the song's original vocalist, Mary Lambert, as well as Jennifer Hudson. The video won best video with a social message, while their hit "Can't Hold Us" won best hip-hop video and best cinematography.

"I never dreamt I would be on a stage accepting an award, any of the awards, in particular for that song," Macklemore said of "Same Love" backstage. "It's much bigger than the music. It's equality, so that was the most special for me tonight, but all of them were incredible."

Bruno Mars, who won best male video and choreography for "Treasure," twirled with his two moonmen backstage, while Gomez admitted she thought Thicke's "Blurred Lines" should have won best pop video instead of her seductive "Come & Get It."

Lady Gaga kicked off the awards show in a less dramatic fashion compared with her past performances. She did change her clothes—and hair—various times onstage while dancing and singing her new hit, "Applause." She finished in a thong, revealing her toned body.

Gilbert, King and Fielding have novels out in fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Elizabeth Gilbert spent enough years as a memoir writer, and had so much success, that even her admirers forget that she started out in fiction.

"For all intents and purposes, whatever I did before `Eat, Pray, Love' doesn't exist," Gilbert said during a recent interview. "I've had some really lovely encounters with very sweet people. Someone will come up to me and say, `I just want to tell you I loved your first book so much. It changed my life.' And I know they're not talking about that book of short stories I published in the 1990s."

This fall, Gilbert returns to fiction with "The Signature of All Things," a globe-trotting family saga set in the 18th and 19th centuries. It's her first novel in more than a decade and a book she could never have taken on without the triumph of "Eat, Pray, Love," her million-selling account of the spiritual and geographic journey that followed the collapse of her first marriage.

"Writing serves different purposes in different seasons in life," says Gilbert, 44, now remarried. "In my 20s, I was seriously pursuing an avocation in literary fiction. Then I used writing all through my 30s just to work some stuff out, just to take on some really important things I had to figure out myself. Now, I'm in this really wonderful moment where I have the resources and the time to return to fiction in a bigger way than I could have had in my 20s."

Gilbert is among several authors who are crossing from one side to the other between fiction and nonfiction. Ishmael Beah, the former child soldier from Sierra Leone who debuted with the best-selling memoir, "A Long Way Gone," has written the novel "Radiance of Tomorrow." Jesmyn Ward, whose novel "Salvage the Bones" won the National Book Award in 2011, has a memoir, "Men We Reaped."

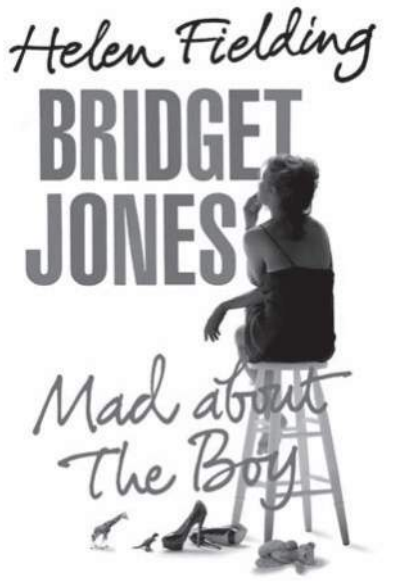
In "The Death of Santini," Pat Conroy tells a nonfiction story about his father, who inspired the classic Conroy novel "The Great Santini." Gilbert's friend Ann Patchett, whose novels include "Bel Canto" and "State of Wonder," is back with a memoir, "This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage."

"I have to go looking for fiction, but nonfiction, which is essentially just life, is always there," Patchett says. "I'm writing nonfiction all the time. I got to the point where I had so much of it that I wanted to shape it into a narrative. The experience of publishing this book feels really different from publishing a novel. Novels are nerve-racking, major productions. `This Is the Story of a Happy Marriage' is easier. It's just me."

Fiction writers sticking to fiction include Thomas Pynchon, Jhumpa Lahiri and Alice McDermott. "The Secret History" author Donna Tartt ends a decade-long absence with the novel "The Goldfinch," and Stephen King continues the story of his classic "The Shining" with "Doctor Sleep." Helen Fielding has some new adventures for her fictional heroine in "Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy."

Philip Roth and Alice Munro are apparently done with writing books, but others of their generation have new works of fiction, including E.L. Doctorow, Lore Segal and Norman Rush. Meanwhile, Marisha Pessl and Pulitzer Prize winner Paul Harding look to build on the success of their debut novels.

Fiction also will come from a former CIA operative (Valerie Plame), a forensic dentist (Mike Tabor, author of "Walk of Death"), a movie star (James Franco) and a TV character, "Homeland: Carrie's Run." A certain television host, David Letterman, has written the text for a picture book on the income divide: "This Land Was Made for You and Me (but Mostly Me): Billionaires in the Wild."



AP

This book cover image released by Knopf shows "Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy," by Helen Fielding.

Veronica Roth, who may soon rival Stephenie Meyer and Suzanne Collins in popularity among teens, completes her "Divergent" trilogy with "Allegiant." Rick Riordan continues his "Heroes of Olympus" series, Jeff Kinney will have the latest "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" and Collins tells a war story for the very young in the picture book "Year of the Jungle."

In politics, the best-selling "Game Change" team of Mark Halperin and John Heilemann will be back with their take on the 2012 White House race, "Double Down." The two great presidents of the early 20th century, Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, will be subjects of books by Pulitzer Prize winning biographers: A. Scott Berg's "Wilson" and Doris Kearns Goodwin's "The Bully Pulpit."

"For good or bad, we live in a world that is largely of Woodrow Wilson's making," Berg wrote in an email, "from the institutions that govern our economy (the Federal Reserve Board), to anti-trust legislation and labor protection (the 8-hour workday) to the basic tenets of our foreign policy, most of which stem from Wilson's call for a Declaration of War on April 2, 1917, when he said, `The world must be made safe for democracy.'"

The season's featured president will be John F. Kennedy, a man who very much believed in Wilson's mission.

By the best estimates of Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble, some three dozen releases will mark the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's death, from an armful or two of conspiracy works to historical summaries such as Larry J. Sabato's "The Kennedy Half Century" to Jeff Greenfield's speculative "If Kennedy Lived."

Bass nixes 'N Sync reunion; dishes on Miley Cyrus

NEW YORK (AP)—Don't get your heart set on anything more than the 90-second `N Sync reunion seen on the MTV Video Music Awards. The performance marked the first time the band played together in 11 years, and also the last time they'll do it, at least for a while.

"It would be lovely to do it, but we got nothing planned," Lance Bass told The Associated Press on Monday between breaks while doing his Sirius XM show "Dirty Pop with Lance Bass."

Part of the reason is that Justin Timberlake begins his solo tour this fall, and the closest Bass says he'll get to the stage is a seat in the audience.

"Who knows what will happen when he's off tour. It's simply not part of the conversation right now. We just focused on that one performance," Bass said. Then he added: "If we did anything like that, I think we would come up with something real special where we could actually call it "The Reunion.'"

Bass, along with fellow boyband mates Joey Fatone, Chris Kirkpatrick, and JC Chasez joined Timberlake, who was already performing. The guys wanted to do something special for Timberlake for receiving The Michael Jackson Vanguard Award. It's the VMA equivalent of a lifetime achievement award.

AP

Justin Timberlake, center, winner of the video vanguard award poses backstage with, from left, JC Chasez, Lance Bass, Joey Fatone and Chris Kirkpatrick of 'N Sync at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2013, at the Barclays Center in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

While the last 15 seconds of their reunion performance made Bass feel nauseous, getting to the stage beforehand was a pure adrenaline rush.

"We had to perform in the middle of the arena so there was no way of getting us out there without being seen. So they dressed us in big ole hoodies to pretend we were the stage hands. So we would push out the stage and do all the stage hand stuff until we got to the area and hid out beneath a staircase," Bass said. "That was my favorite part."

Bass said just before they stopped performing he felt queasy from nerves.

As for the show, Bass shared his view on the evening's most controversial performance when Miley Cyrus stripped down to a nude bikini, erotically grinded with Robin Thicke, and made suggestive gestures with a foam hand with a pointed finger.

The singer said his young nieces and nephews watched the VMA's for the first time to finally see their uncle perform in `N Sync.

"I didn't know I had to warn them that their little Hannah Montana was going to be naked and humping a finger," Bass said in shock.

During a commercial break, he spoke more of the incident.

"I think it's her thing. I think she shocked a lot of her younger fans, especially the parents, who might not be so happy with her thing and she's just being Miley," Bass said.

"I mean it is a big deal. Unfortunately I think young artists, especially coming from a Disney background, especially want to change that image. ... Lady Gaga does it. Everyone is like what can I do just to really shock people. But Lady Gaga and a lot of people have really missed the mark a lot where it goes over people's heads."

Matt Damon, Panettiere get Environmental Media Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Environmental Media Association is honoring Matt Damon and Hayden Panettiere for their dedication to ecological causes.

The organization announced Monday that the two actors will be honored at its 23rd annual Environmental Media Awards this fall.

Damon will receive the Ongoing Commitment Award for his work with Water.org, the organization he co-founded that aims to bring safe water and sanitation to people around the world.

The 42-year-old actor says he hopes the award brings attention to Water.org's efforts "to bring clean water to communities around the world and inspire new friends and partners to join the fight."

Panettiere will accept the Futures Award, which recognizes younger entertainers for their potential to be environmental activists. The "Nashville" star is active with the Whaleman Foundation, an oceanic research and conservation group.

The 24-year-old actress said she's excited to talk about her work with the Whaleman Foundation and "using my voice to protect our oceans and their amazing inhabitants."

The prizes will be presented at a ceremony on Oct. 19 at Warner Bros. studios in Burbank, Calif.

Kate Gosselin sues ex over book, alleges hacking

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Former reality TV star Kate Gosselin filed a lawsuit Monday accusing her ex-husband of stealing her hard drive and hacking into her phone and computer to get material for a tell-all book.

Jon Gosselin accessed email, bank accounts and other private information for a book called "Kate Gosselin: How She Fooled the World," according to the federal lawsuit.

The 2012 book was written by Jon Gosselin's friend and business partner, tabloid writer Robert Hoffman, but pulled from the market after two days because the information had been illegally obtained, the lawsuit said.

"Jon violated a federal anti-hacking statute in order to publish salacious, scandalous and defamatory information about Kate," said her lawyer A. Jordan Rushie. "It's damaged her reputation."

The couple starred in the TLC show "Jon & Kate plus 8," detailing life with their twins and sextuplets, before they separated in 2009 and later divorced.

She, a former nurse who now runs a coupon website, lives in Sinking Spring. He worked in information technology and now lives in nearby Wyomissing. Both are outside Reading, northwest of Philadelphia.

The lawsuit accuses Jon Gosselin of identity theft, wiretapping and invasion of privacy and seeks unspecified damages. A lawyer who once represented Jon Gosselin did not immediately return a message. Hoffman is also named as a defendant. He did not immediately return an email message sent through his website.

Even beyond their acrimonious divorce, the Gosselins have been embroiled in a series of legal problems over the past few years.

■ The state investigated whether the children's TV appearances violated child labor laws, amid concerns from her estranged brother.

■ Jon Gosselin threated to seek primary custody of the children on grounds that his ex-wife's appearances on "Dancing With the Stars" made her an absentee mother, claims her lawyer called reckless.

■ Jon Gosselin tangled with the TLC network over outside appearances that allegedly violated his contract for the family-friendly show.

■ A Pennsylvania marriage therapist sued Kate Gosselin for the cost of flying to California in 2009 to work with the couple.

■ Jon Gosselin's apartment in New York was ransacked by someone who slashed furniture, stole his TV and left a note pinned to his dresser with a butcher knife, according to his lawyer.

■ In 2011, Kate Gosselin pleaded guilty to driving 88 mph in a 65 mph zone. She told police she was hurrying home to her children.

Judge approves deal dismissing Paula Deen lawsuit

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP)—A federal judge signed off Monday on a deal to dismiss a discrimination lawsuit against celebrity cook Paula Deen.

A civil lawsuit accusing the former Food Network star and her brother of race discrimination and sexual harassment was officially dismissed when U.S. District Court Judge William T. Moore Jr. in Savannah approved a deal reached by attorneys in the case last week.

The order closed the case "with prejudice," meaning former Deen employee Lisa Jackson can't sue again over the same issues. Both sides agreed to pay their own court costs and legal fees. No other terms of the deal were disclosed.

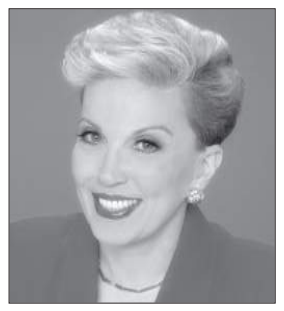
Jackson sued last year, saying she worked in an environment rife with racial slurs and sexual innuendo during her five years as manager of Uncle Bubba's Seafood and Oyster House in Savannah. Deen co-owns the restaurant with her brother, Bubba Hiers, who oversees its daily operations.

The case got little attention outside Savannah until Deen herself was questioned under oath in a May legal deposition. A transcript filed with the court in June showed Deen acknowledged using racial slurs in the past. When an attorney asked if she had ever used the N-word, Deen replied: "Yes, of course." She also added, "It's been a very long time."

Within a few days, the Food Network said it would not renew Deen's contract and yanked her shows off the air.

Fear of 911 publicity causes some not to make the call

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: A friend of mine was a victim of domestic violence. When I asked her why she didn't phone 911 for help, her response was, "They play those 911 calls on the radio all the time." She didn't want her prominent husband's career damaged by adverse publicity.

Today, a group of us discussed the issue over breakfast. Many of the women said that because of the popularity of 911 calls being broadcast on the Internet, radio and TV, they'd be hesitant to phone for help when needed, too.

Abby, someone is going to suffer serious harm out of fear that their call for help will be publicized. Do you know what can be done about this new "drama entertainment"? I wouldn't want my terrified call heard by the public either, so I'd take my chances without calling for help. I just hope I don't wake up dead one day as a result.

PUBLICITY-SHY IN FLORIDA

DEAR PUBLICITY-SHY: Nothing can be done about "drama entertainment" as long as the public has an appetite for it. The reason for the practice of "if it bleeds, it leads" in the media is that it draws viewers and listeners—which means advertising revenue.

In the case of domestic violence, calling 911 is the lesser of two evils. Out-of-control abusers have been known to maim and kill the ones they "love." Ask yourself if your friend's husband's career was worth risking her life for. It makes more sense to risk a 911 call being broadcast than to have cameras and TV reporters camped on your lawn while the EMTs or the coroner carry your battered, bloody body out on a gurney.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm overweight and have a family history of heart disease and diabetes. An injury to my back severely limits my ability to exercise, so diet is an important part of my health plan.

My problem is people CONSTANTLY try to get me to eat. I explain my situation, but they still urge me to have "just a taste." If I go to a party and shy away from the buffet, the host feels I'm being rude. Recently, my supervisor at work became insulted because I refused some food she brought to a work meeting.

These people wouldn't be upset if an alcoholic refused a drink, so why are they so hostile to me? (Another thing that upsets me is when somebody dies an early death, these same folks say, "He should have taken better care of himself.")

UNDER ATTACK IN ARIZONA

DEAR UNDER ATTACK: For many people, food has become something other than fuel for the body. It can symbolize love, caring, acceptance—and when it is refused it can seem like a personal rejection to the person offering it. (Yes, I know it's crazy.)

Your best defense is to remind your hosts, your supervisor, your co-workers and friends that you have a family history of health problems and are on a doctor-advised restricted diet to manage it. Remind these generous souls that socializing is more about the company than the food, and you are grateful that they understand.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: You give so much great advice, I'm wondering if there is a basic principle you abide by in order to help guide you when giving advice.

CURIOUS READER

DEAR CURIOUS: I hadn't really thought about it, but I suppose it's something like this: Show up for work ready to put forth my best effort. Be honest enough to admit that not everyone agrees with me or that I'm sometimes wrong. Tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Don't pull any punches, don't preach and always try to be succinct.

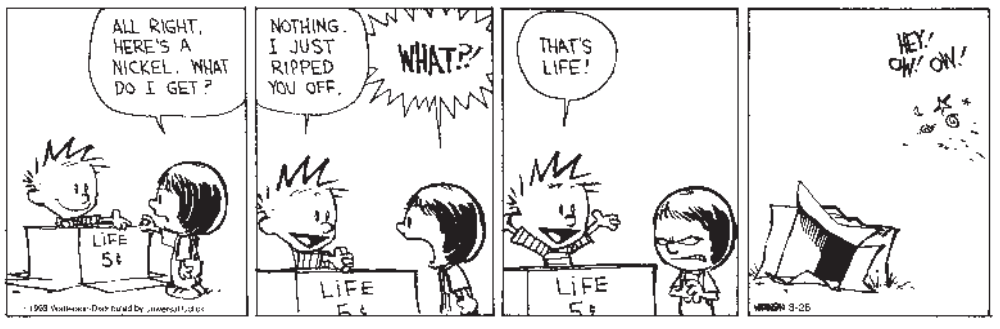
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

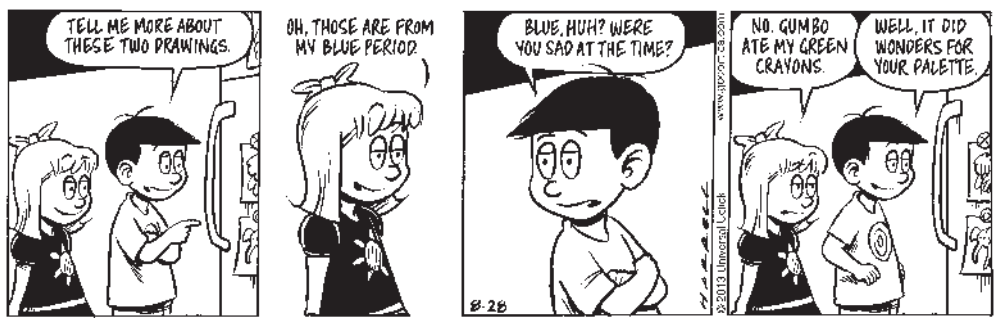


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


TELL ME MORE ABOUT THESE TWO DRAWINGS.
OH, THOSE ARE FROM MY BLUE PERIOD.
BLUE, HUH? WERE YOU SAD AT THE TIME?
NO. GUMBO ATE MY GREEN CRAYONS.
WELL, IT DID WONDERS FOR YOUR PALETTE.
8-28
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

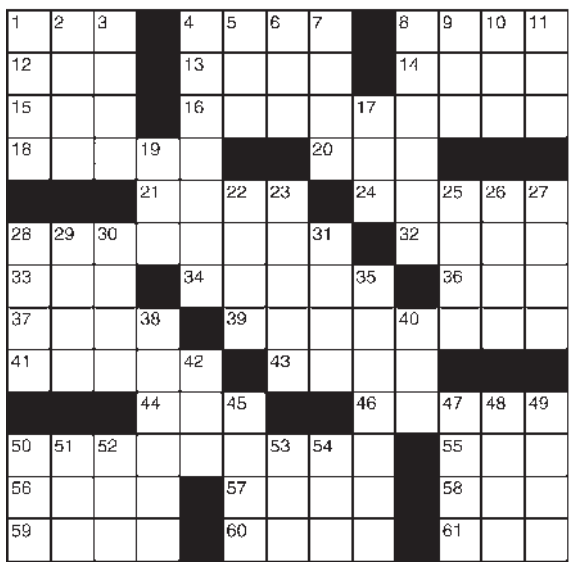
ACROSS
1 Smidgen
4 Grate
8 Computer brand
12 Rage
13 Reverberate
14 "Scat!"
15 Knight's address
16 Secretarial skill
18 Hiawatha's transport
20 Twitch
21 Society newbies
24 Went wan
28 Issue, as a verdict
32 Church section
33 Id counterpart
34 Nose-thumbing gesture
36 — Veneto
37 Neighborhood
39 Collapse
41 "The Honeymooners" role
43 Twosome
44 Expert
46 Kind of personality
50 Just miss
55 Wall climber
56 Shaving cream additive
57 Grimace
58 Appomattox surrenderer
59 Credit card result
60 Molt
61 Halves of ems

DOWN
1 Platter
2 Met melody
3 Swiss capital
4 Sows anew
5 Interlaken interjection
6 HBO rival
7 Harbor city
8 Early 20th-century art movement
9 Tea type
10 A billion years
11 Fishing need
17 Gratuity
19 Peculiar
22 007
23 What hawks do
25 Volcano outflow
26 Satanic
27 Transaction
28 Learn of
29 Taj Mahal city
30 Yuletide refrain
31 "And — word from our sponsor"
35 Made bootees
38 Mini-program
40 Saute
42 Storefront sign abbr.
45 Resistance measures
47 Heap
48 Tied
49 Nays' foes
50 Craze
51 Hearty quaff
52 High-arc shot
53 Fireworks reaction
54 Regret

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	U	D	I	■	B	E	A	T	■	F	R	O
I	N	O	N	■	A	R	C	H	■	O	A	K
F	O	R	T	U	N	A	T	E	■	R	N	A
■	■	■	A	S	K	S	■	F	A	T	T	Y
K	A	F	K	A	■	■	H	O	N	I	■	■
A	L	O	E	■	S	P	O	O	N	F	U	L
V	A	R	■	T	W	I	R	L	■	I	R	A
A	R	T	E	R	I	E	S	■	J	E	S	S
■	■	I	M	A	M	■	■	S	O	D	A	S
P	A	T	S	Y	■	C	O	P	Y	■	■	■
E	M	U	■	F	O	R	T	Y	F	I	V	E
R	O	D	■	U	N	I	T	■	U	R	I	S
F	K	F	■	I	O	H	O	■	I	F	A	P

Yesterday's answer 8-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Florence Welch, 27; Armie Hammer, 27; Jack Black, 44; Shania Twain, 48.

Happy Birthday: Keep your personal life private and your emotions in check. Protect what you have worked so hard to achieve and avoid getting involved with individuals who show unpredictable qualities that could harm your position, status or reputation. Put your responsibilities first to avoid meddlers and complainers from causing you grief. Control your situation instead of letting someone else run the show. Your numbers are 5, 8, 17, 22, 31, 38, 46.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get out and enjoy your friends and new activities. Visiting a destination you have never been to before will open up all sorts of new possibilities. Compromise, but don't overcompensate for someone else. Romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't allow anger to come between you and a workable solution. Stubbornness is not going to help you get what you want. Reverse psychology will help you gain approval with someone who can persuade others to see things your way. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Hold back on allowing others to voice opinions. Once you know where everyone stands, you will be in a better position to make suggestions that will have a positive influence and bring about interesting options. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Networking will result in suggestions that can lead to travel or experience that will enable you to move in a better direction. Ask questions and share thoughts. A partnership will bring you closer to your goals. Don't make personal changes. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Compromise to avoid a rift with someone who can cause personal problems. Strive to free up time to make directional alterations. Pick up knowledge that will make it easier to deal with those set in their ways and likely to cause problems. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your feelings and your emotions under control. Emotional deception is apparent and must be considered before you make a move that may have a negative effect on your financial future. Practical choices will far outweigh an impulsive short-term fix. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Your emotions will not lead you astray. Take note of your feelings, but don't take action. Someone you are dealing with will overreact, giving you the opportunity to make a move that will put you in a positive position. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let anyone bait you into an argument. Listen to what's being said and take time to absorb what's happened and what works best for you. You are sitting in a much better position than you realize. Bide your time. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stick close to home. Dealing with institutions or people who are quick to manipulate or twist your words will create problems when you travel or try to take care of paperwork. Domestic changes will bring good results. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Look over deals, contracts and investments or research a health issue that concerns you and you will find a way to address it. A problem with a friend, relative or neighbor can affect your relationship with someone you love. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Talks will not help you solve a problem you have with someone. Do your own thing and follow a path that will ensure your happiness and satisfaction. It's best to be honest if you want to put an end to a difficult situation. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotions will escalate and confusion will set in with regard to a partnership you thought you could count on. Look over your finances and make sure you have protected your possessions and assets. Expand your interests and friendships. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, emotional and compassionate. You face challenges head-on.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	6	4	5	7			
		9			1	5	7	
		3			6			4
	3					4		1
9							6	8
8							5	
	7					3		
		5			9			
			2	8				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	3	4	8	6	7	5	2
7	8	4	5	2	1	9	3	6
2	5	6	3	7	9	1	8	4
1	4	5	2	9	3	8	6	7
6	9	8	7	1	4	3	2	5
3	7	2	8	6	5	4	9	1
4	3	9	1	5	2	6	7	8
5	6	7	9	4	8	2	1	3
8	2	1	6	3	7	5	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★ 8/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ICE CREAM SANDWICHES **Solution: 7 letters**

E	Y	R	E	P	P	I	L	S	S	S	S	B	E
E	K	A	B	W	A	F	E	R	E	A	O	E	B	L
Y	V	A	N	I	L	L	A	E	R	U	F	I	C	C
H	K	A	C	T	K	E	T	L	O	C	T	K	H	R
C	L	C	N	N	E	A	M	M	M	E	T	O	E	I
T	I	O	I	A	S	X	E	O	S	O	C	O	R	C
O	M	R	O	T	N	S	T	I	N	O	N	C	R	A
C	P	I	Y	C	S	A	Z	U	L	L	M	D	Y	R
S	D	A	T	Y	R	E	B	A	R	A	G	U	S	A
R	E	L	E	R	I	U	T	I	P	E	B	J	A	M
E	P	C	E	N	E	E	M	L	S	M	D	E	W	E
T	P	E	W	R	C	S	E	B	L	C	I	L	L	L
T	A	O	S	B	I	T	S	E	L	U	U	N	O	I
U	R	E	Y	A	L	C	H	E	W	Y	F	I	T	C
B	W	B	A	R	S	E	H	N	D	M	E	L	T	K

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Yesterday's Answer: Blossom

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Tracy McGrady announces retirement from NBA

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Those sleepy eyes always betrayed Tracy McGrady.

Whether he was pouring in 13 points in 35 seconds for Houston in 2004 or sitting on the bench and watching the San Antonio Spurs win another playoff game in June without needing him, that cool expression rarely changed. It all looked almost too easy for McGrady, even if it rarely was.

McGrady announced his retirement from the NBA on Monday, ending a 16-year career that included two scoring titles, seven All-Star appearances, injuries to his knee and back and zero playoff series wins while he was leading the way. The straight-from-high school project who blossomed into a dominant, two-way superstar will always be remembered, too, as a player who struggled with injuries.

"Thank all of you who have supported me over 16 NBA seasons, 7 All-Stars, and countless exciting moments," McGrady tweeted on Monday morning. "Retiring from NBA. Stay tuned."

McGrady didn't rule out continuing his career overseas, perhaps in China where he played last season.

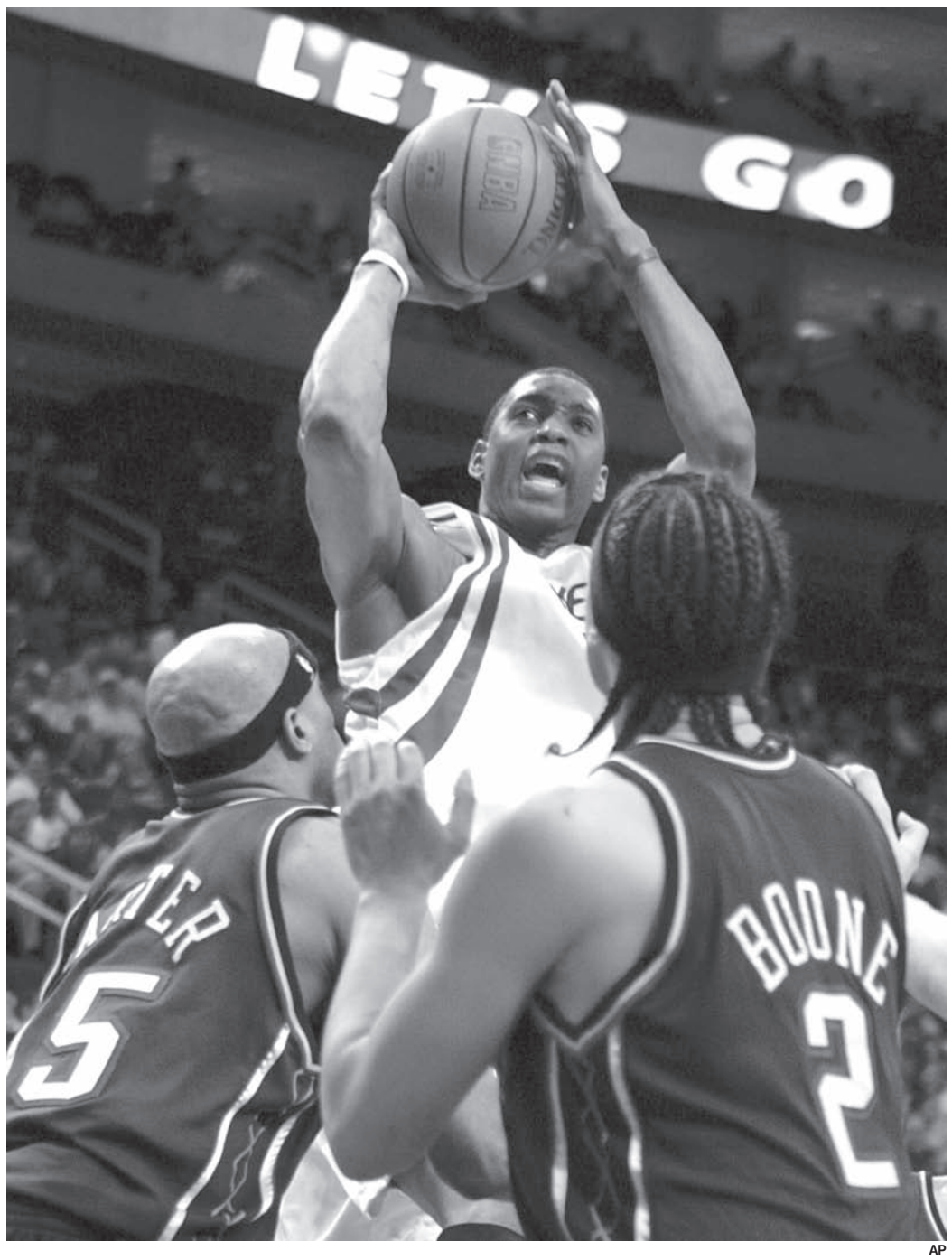
"Officially retired from the NBA," he said on ESPN. "Door's still open."

McGrady was drafted by Toronto out of high school in 1997 and was outshined early in his career by Raptors star Vince Carter, McGrady's distant cousin. He became a star in Orlando, was traded to Houston in 2004 and also played for the Knicks, Pistons and Hawks before finishing up his career with the Spurs last season. He averaged 19.6 points, 5.6 rebounds and 4.4 assists per game in his career and at one point was considered one of the best perimeter players of his generation, a talent that rivaled Kobe Bryant and any other player in the league.

"Congrats to Tracy McGrady on an awesome career," LeBron James tweeted. "7-time All-NBA (2 1st Team), 2-time scoring champ, and just an all-around dazzling talent."

The Raptors drafted McGrady ninth overall out of Mount Zion Academy and spoon-fed him early while his body developed to withstand the rigors of the NBA. By his third season, McGrady was averaging 15.4 points, 6.3 rebounds and showing all the early signs of becoming a star. He left Toronto after that season, joining up with Grant Hill in Orlando, which is where some of the hard luck that plagued McGrady for years first started to surface.

"There are a lot of things that go into winning in the NBA," former Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy said in a phone interview. "And until McGrady's body betrayed him, he was a dominant player."



AP
In this file photo from March 9, 2007, Houston Rockets forward Tracy McGrady, center, drives to the basket scoring against New Jersey Nets' Vince Carter, left, and Josh Boone (2) during an NBA basketball game in Houston.

McGrady's body wasn't the only one that let him down.

Hill hardly played in his first two seasons in Orlando, leaving McGrady to carry the load all by himself. He averaged 33.8 points per game in the Magic's first-round playoff loss to Milwaukee, then scored 30.8 per game in a four-game loss to Charlotte the following season.

He delivered his finest individual season in 2002-03, winning his first scoring title with 32.1 points while averaging 6.5 rebounds, 5.5 assists and 1.7 steals in a tour-de-force season that ended, once again, with a first-round exit at the hands of the Pistons.

No matter how brilliantly McGrady played, he couldn't get his teams over the hump in the postseason, and a narrative started to form. After the Magic missed the postseason in 2003-04, McGrady was traded to the Rockets. He enjoyed one of the crowning moments of his career that season when he scored 13 points in 35 seconds to lift the Rockets over the Spurs in a December game. But more than the scoring prowess, which put McGrady practically in a class by himself, Van Gundy prized his star player for his versatility—he was a lock-down defender, deft passer and could be a force on the glass.

"Maybe his greatest attribute is he's one of the best wing passers ever," Van Gundy said. "Great size, great skill, incredibly unselfish. He was a multi-dimensional player that unfortunately rarely got the opportunity to play with better teams when he could advance further in the playoffs."

Ankle problems kept Hill from helping McGrady in Orlando, while foot problems for Yao Ming spoiled a potentially devastating tandem in Houston. McGrady also had microfracture surgery on his knee in 2009, which combined with chronic back spasms to limit him to 65 games over the next two seasons. All of a sudden, that effortless athleticism was gone.

The Rockets made it to the second round in 2009 with both McGrady and Yao on the bench with injuries, only adding fuel to his critics.

While McGrady bowed out in first round after first round, some started to question his work ethic. Where was Michael Jordan's competitive fire? Where was Bryant's passion? How badly did McGrady really want it?

After a stint with the Hawks, McGrady spent most of last season playing in China until the Spurs jettisoned Stephen Jackson and asked McGrady if he was interested in being an insurance policy for them in the playoffs. He played just 31 minutes in six games during San Antonio's run to the NBA Finals.

Sitting on the bench in San Antonio, surrounded by healthy All-Star talent for the first time in his career, McGrady couldn't help but wonder what might have been.

1st-round Slam win for Venus Williams matters now

NEW YORK (AP)—For years and years, a first-round victory by Venus Williams at a major tournament would hardly merit a mention.

She is, after all, a seven-time Grand Slam singles champion. She's been the runner-up another seven times.

She was ranked No. 1, owns Olympic gold medals, and is second to her younger sister Serena among active women in several key categories, including Grand Slam match wins, with 215.

And yet nowadays, at age 33, two years removed from being diagnosed with an autoimmune disease that saps energy, hampered much of this season by a bad lower back, and her ranking down to 60th, Williams entered Day 1 at the 2013 U.S. Open having won a total of three matches over the past five Grand Slam tournaments. Plus, she was facing 12th-seeded Kirsten Flipkens, who was a semifinalist at Wimbledon last month and beat Williams on a hard court this month.

Looking very much like the player she used to be, Williams smacked serves at up to 120 mph, returned superbly, covered the court well enough to hit a handful of swinging volley winners, and beat Flipkens 6-1, 6-2 Monday to reach the second round at Flushing Meadows.

Flipkens, for one, was not surprised in the least to see Williams play that way. To Flipkens, this was not an upset—no matter what the rankings indicate.

"If Venus is there—if she's fit, if she's focused—she's a top-10 player," Flipkens said. "Everybody who knows a little bit of the game of tennis can see that. Today, she was like a top-10 player."

Williams, who topped the WTA rankings in 2002, hasn't cracked the top 10 since she was No. 9 in March 2011. She hasn't been past the third round at a Grand Slam tournament since a fourth-round exit at Wimbledon later that year. Indeed, Williams lost in the first round in two of her previous four appearances at majors, including at the French Open in May; she sat out Wimbledon for the only time in her career in June.

"I stay positive because I know I can play great tennis. Sometimes you just have to go through more than what you want to go through," the American said after winning the first four games and the last four games against Belgium's Flipkens. "Sometimes you have to have losses."

Their match was the day's second in Arthur Ashe Stadium, and owing perhaps to the early hour - or the stricter security measures, including new metal detectors, that led to long delays for spectators entering the grounds—there were thousands of empty blue seats in the 23,000-capacity arena.

The place was full for the night session, when Serena Williams began her title defense with a 6-0, 6-1 victory, a performance so thoroughly impressive that her opponent, 2010 French Open champion Francesca Schiavone, was prompted in a brief moment of levity to seek comfort by hugging a ball boy.

"I don't need a hug in that moment, I need a game," joked Schiavone, who was trailing 6-0, 2-0 at the time.

Asked which meant more on this day, her own victory or her sister's, Serena replied: "They're equal. I definitely was happy to see Venus win. I really was happy for her. I know she's been working hard. I know she had a tough opponent. For her to come through was just awesome. Obviously, I want to do well, too."

The victory over Schiavone lasted exactly an hour, and light rain began falling right after it ended. Eventually, play was called off for the day, postponing 17-time major champion Roger Federer's match against 62nd-ranked Grega Zemlja of Slovenia until Tuesday.

Earlier on Ashe, 12-time major champion Rafael Nadal delivered a straightforward, straight-set victory over 21-year-old American Ryan Harrison, part of a series of smooth performances by top players. Flipkens was one of two seeded women to lose, along with No. 29 Magdalena Rybarikova of Slovakia.

Three seeded men exited during Monday's afternoon session: No. 11 Kei Nishikori, No. 27 Fernando Verdasco and No. 30 Ernests Gulbis.

Sloane Stephens, a 20-year-old American seeded 15th, very nearly was on the list of losers, dropping the opening set, then trailing 4-2 in the third and 3-1 in the closing tiebreaker, before coming back to edge 110th-ranked Mandy Minella of Luxembourg 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5).

Stephens heard plenty of support from the crowd, of course. She also picked out one particular voice in the stands that tried to remind her of at least one reason to be motivated.

"Someone yelled to me, `If you don't get it together, this lady is going to take your second round prize money!' I was like, `Oh, God,'" Stephens recounted.

She's one of a crop of young women from the U.S. seen as potential successors to the Williams sisters as tennis standard-bearers for the country; the 19 Americans in the main draw are the most at a Grand Slam tournament in seven years.

By reaching the semifinals at the Australian Open in January, then the quarterfinals at Wimbledon, Stephens only increased expectations—particularly when competing on home turf.

"There's more eyes on me," said Stephens, who is based in Coral Springs, Fla. "Just the whole being here at the U.S. Open is a bit overwhelming. Literally everywhere you go, every single person knows who you are, as opposed to when you're at the French Open or when you're at Wimbledon."

Dickey looks forward as Blue Jays beat Yankees

TORONTO (AP)—R.A. Dickey pitched into the seventh inning and Jose Reyes sparked Toronto's offense as the Blue Jays snapped a 10-game losing streak against the New York Yankees with a 5-2 victory on Monday.

Alex Rodriguez hit his 650th home run, a leadoff drive in the fifth, but the Yankees lost for the ninth time in 13 road games this month. Rodriguez is 10 homers away from tying Willie Mays for fourth on the career list, which would secure a $6 million bonus for the third baseman.

Derek Jeter went hitless in his return to New York's lineup. Jeter, who had been out with a calf injury, finished 0 for 3 with a walk.

Reyes walked and scored in the third, and doubled and scored in Toronto's three-run fifth as the Blue Jays beat the Yankees for just the second time in 14 meetings this season.

Dickey (10-12) allowed two runs, one earned, and six hits in 6 1-3 innings. Casey Janssen got three outs for his 24th save in 26 chances.

New York right-hander Phil Hughes (4-13) allowed five runs, four earned, and seven hits in 4 2-3 innings. He is 0-6 with a 5.84 ERA in his last nine starts.

AP

Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher R.A. Dickey pitches against the New York Yankees during the first inning of a baseball game in Toronto on Monday, Aug. 26, 2013.

Athletics 8, Tigers 6

In Detroit, Coco Crisp and Daric Barton each drove in two runs, leading Oakland past Miguel Cabrera and Detroit.

Cabrera hit his 43rd homer, bolstering his pursuit of another Triple Crown, but Barton had a tiebreaking RBI single in Oakland's two-run sixth inning. Crisp also had a solo homer during his three-hit performance.

A.J. Griffin (11-9) earned his first win since July 29 despite allowing four runs and seven hits in five-plus innings. The right-hander was 0-2 with a 3.47 ERA in his previous four starts.

Omar Infante and Victor Martinez also homered for the AL Central-leading Tigers, who had won three in a row. Martinez went 4 for 5 and Torii Hunter had two hits.

Barton's tiebreaking single in the sixth came against Jose Alvarez (1-4).

Grant Balfour allowed an unearned run in the ninth on Matt Tuiasosopo's grounder before finishing for his 33rd save.

Royals 11, Rays 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jeremy Guthrie tossed five effective innings, helping Kansas City roll to the victory in the makeup of a snowed-out game from early May.

Guthrie (13-10) allowed one run and six hits, struck out five and walked three. He fanned Kelly Johnson with two aboard to end the third inning, and then struck out David DeJesus on a called third strike to leave the bases loaded in the fourth.

Jeremy Hellickson (10-8) allowed five runs in just 2 2-3 innings for Tampa Bay. It was the right-hander's shortest start since June 30, 2012, when he went the same distance in a game against Detroit before getting pelted in the leg by a line drive.

Salvador Perez hit a three-run homer and finished with four RBIs as the Royals won their second straight following a seven-game slide.

Rangers 8, Mariners 3

In Seattle, A.J. Pierzynski hit a three-run homer for Texas, and Mitch Moreland had a solo shot in a win over Seattle.

Alex Rios had two hits and two RBIs as the Rangers picked up their fifth win in seven games. Elvis Andrus celebrated his 25th birthday with three hits and an RBI.

Kyle Seager hit his 20th home run of the season for the Mariners, who have lost four in a row.

Travis Blackley (2-1) earned his first win since being acquired in a trade with Houston on Aug. 14. Blackley, making his second start of the season, allowed three runs and five hits over six innings in his longest outing since Oct. 2, 2012.

It was a much different night for Seattle starter Joe Saunders (10-13), who turned in another sluggish outing. The left-hander allowed seven runs and nine hits in seven inning to fall to 1-5 with a 7.71 ERA in his last seven starts.

Astros 10, White Sox 8

In Chicago, Matt Dominguez hit a tiebreaking homer with two outs in the ninth inning and Chris Carter followed with his second homer of the game, powering Houston to the win.

The Astros squandered a five-run lead and trailed 8-7 before Carter hit a tying RBI single in the seventh. White Sox reliever Addison Reed (5-2) struck out Jose Altuve and Jason Castro to open the ninth before Dominguez belted a drive to left for his 19th homer. Carter then added his 25th of the year.

David Martinez (1-0) pitched 2 2-3 innings to get his first major league win, and Jordan Lyles — Houston's third pitcher of the ninth inning — struck out Avisail Garcia looking on a full count with the bases loaded to get his first save in his first chance this season.

Carter finished 3 for 4 with the two homers and four RBIs in his third career multihomer game.

Phillies 2, Mets 1

In New York, Philadelphia's Cliff Lee outpitched Zack Wheeler after the Mets learned All-Star starter Matt Harvey has a partially torn ligament in his right elbow, while Cody Asche had a two-run triple as the Phillies beat New York.

Lee (11-3) gave a bullpen taxed by an 18-inning loss Saturday a much-needed rest. He allowed a run and five hits in eight innings to win for the first time in seven starts since July 5.

Asche hit his first major league triple _ with two outs in the fourth _ as the Phillies improved to 7-4 under new manager Ryne Sandberg and won for the second time in 15 road games.

The Mets lost their fifth straight and dropped into fourth place in the NL East.

Jonathan Papelbon was perfect in the ninth for his 22nd save in 28 opportunities.

Wheeler (6-3) worked 6 2-3 impressive innings in his 13th big league start. New York lost for just the second time in his last 10 outings. The rising star gave up two runs and five hits, and threw 105 pitches.

Dodgers 6, Cubs 2

In Los Angeles, Zack Greinke came within one strike of his fifth career shutout, and Hanley Ramirez and Yasiel Puig homered as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the Chicago Cubs, ending a two-game skid.

The Cubs lost for the eighth straight time to the Dodgers, including a four-game sweep at Wrigley Field earlier this month. The Dodgers equaled their longest winning streak against the Cubs in franchise history, set from June 9, 1974-May 19, 1975.

Greinke (13-3) tied his season high with nine strikeouts and he walked two while improving to 5-0 this month. The right-hander has won 10 of 11 decisions since June 22.

Greinke had a two-out hit in the fourth that scored the Dodgers' first run.

After giving up a single to Starlin Castro to open the game, Greinke retired the next 13 batters before Donnie Murphy singled in the fifth.

Greinke got the first two outs of the ninth before running into trouble. Brian Bogusevic's RBI double scored Chicago's two runs. Brian Wilson came in to strike out Murphy for the final out.

Jake Arrieta (1-1) gave up four runs and six hits in five-plus innings in his first road start for the Cubs.

Cardinals 8, Reds 6

In St. Louis, Allen Craig hit his first career grand slam with two outs in the seventh inning, helping St. Louis rally to beat Cincinnati.

Matt Holliday also had a long three-run homer as St. Louis moved into sole possession of first place in the NL Central for the first time since July 29. The Cardinals lead idle Pittsburgh by a half-game and Cincinnati by 3 1/2 games.

Rookie Carlos Martinez (1-1) pitched two innings for his first major league win, and Edward Mujica worked a perfect ninth for his 35th save.

Zack Cozart had two hits and three RBIs for the Reds, who dropped to 4-9 against St. Louis this season. Jay Bruce hit his 25th homer in the eighth.

Cozart and Todd Frazier both hit two-run triples off Tyler Lyons in the second, helping Cincinnati build a 4-0 lead. Holliday homered in the third.

The Cardinals went ahead to stay in the seventh. Jon Jay drove in a run with a bases-loaded grounder off Manny Parra (1-3). J.J. Hoover then walked Holliday, and Craig drove the next pitch over the wall in right for his 13th homer.

Rockies 6, Giants 1

In Denver, Todd Helton homered to move within three hits of 2,500 as Colorado beat San Francisco.

Juan Nicasio tossed six shutout innings and added an RBI single, and Charlie Blackmon also homered for the Rockies.

Buster Posey singled and reached base for the 49th straight game against Colorado.

The Rockies began a nine-game, 10-day homestand with a strong performance against lefty Barry Zito (4-10), who has struggled away from home this season. Zito allowed five runs and nine hits and struck out one in four innings in his second start since being put back into the rotation. He is 0-8 with a 9.61 ERA on the road this season.

Nicasio (8-6) tied a season high with nine strikeouts and allowed four hits. He worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the first inning and pitched around two hit-batters before leaving after 95 pitches.

The Giants spoiled the shutout attempt on Joaquin Arias' two-out RBI double off Jeff Francis in the ninth.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 1

In Phoenix, Brandon McCarthy turned in seven strong innings, and Paul Goldschmidt drove in two runs to lead Arizona over San Diego.

After a shaky first inning, the 6-foot-7 McCarthy (3-8) allowed only four runners over his final six innings. It was his first win since he beat San Diego on May 28. His other victory was a shutout at Miami on May 18.

Goldschmidt stretched his NL-leading RBI total to 103 with his first triple of the season and a ground out. He has the most RBIs for an Arizona hitter since Luis Gonzalez drove in 104 in 2003.

Between the first inning and when he left the game, McCarthy allowed a one-out single in the third to Venable, a two-out single in the fourth to Chase Headley and a two-out single to opposing pitcher Tyson Ross (3-7) in the fifth.

Mets ace Harvey has torn ligament in elbow

NEW YORK (AP)—Matt Harvey has a partially torn ligament in his right elbow, a potentially devastating injury for the pitcher that had given the foundering New York Mets reason to be hopeful about their future.

For now, the 24-year-old Harvey and the Mets hope that he will be able to avoid reconstruction surgery on the ulnar collateral ligament. A full prognosis will not be made until swelling in the elbow goes down in about two weeks.

"It was tough. Obviously it was the last thing I was expecting when I went this morning," Harvey said Monday. "I am going to do everything I can to avoid surgery."

The National League's All-Star game starter on his home field this July, Harvey has been experiencing forearm tenderness for a month or two but could not pinpoint exactly when it began. The discomfort increased during his start Saturday against the Detroit Tigers, when he allowed a career-high 13 hits.

Harvey admitted he was tired against the Tigers, the 26th start of his first full season in the major leagues. Manager Terry Collins said he noticed Harvey's pitches weren't as crisp, a sign of fatigue.

But Collins didn't know Harvey had any issues with his forearm until Sunday and the ace went for an MRI at the Hospital for Special Surgery a day later.

"Nothing is shooting in my elbow at all. That's not the issue," Harvey said. "When I heard the news, I was pretty shocked. I'm still very optimistic."

Harvey wasn't the only one in the Mets organization stunned by the news.

"This was a surprise to all of us," general manager Sandy Alderson said. "Forearm pain can foretell problems with the elbow, but in this particular circumstance there had been no indications of that."

Harvey wasn't immediately placed on the disabled list. Carlos Torres will take his spot in the rotation and face the Phillies on Thursday.

Torres got two outs on Monday night in the Mets' 2-1 loss to Philadelphia that dropped New York to 58-71.

The No. 7 pick of the 2010 draft, Harvey is 9-5 with a 2.27 ERA. He has a league-leading 191 strikeouts in 178 1-3 innings pitched and was a top candidate for the NL Cy Young Award.

"It put everybody down," catcher Travis d'Arnaud said. "When we heard the news everybody was just speechless. I just feel terrible, man."

The Mets were working on limiting Harvey's innings to a little more than 200 this season. Alderson said there is no real scientific basis for managing young pitchers' careers.

"These innings limits are not a guarantee of anything. They're certainly not based on any science," Alderson said. "This is a kind of progressive injury that isn't a function of, we don't believe in this case a specific incident or quote overuse. It's an anatomical fact that these things happen."

Bea completes classified tourney winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paul Bea beat top-ranked Wellington Ang in the finals twice to rule Class B of the 2013 Philippine Bowling Association Budweiser Classified Tournament held early this month at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Bea edged Ang in Game 1 of the finals, 163-157, and also took Game 2, 158-140, to complete the come-from-behind victory and join Rusty Musca (Class A) and Ariel Dumapit (Class B) in this season's champions circle.

Class C champion Paul Bea is flanked by runners-up Wellington Ang, left, and Edgar Abalos, during the awards ceremony for the PBA-Budweiser Classified Tournament this month at the Saipan Bowling Center.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ang and Bea dueled for the Class C championships after surviving the qualifying games. Ang recorded 1,009 pinfalls in the six-game qualifying roll-offs to top the 13-player elimination and bag the automatic first finals berth. The No. 1 qualifier was the only bowler to knock down at least 1,000 pins, averaging 168.17 per game and posting his best scores in Games 4 and 5 (179s). Ang's other scores were 160, 177, 145, and 179.

Bea was ranked second after the qualifying tournament to advance to the stepladder finals where he faced third finisher Edgar Abalos. Bea was the lone bowler in his group to earn 200-plus pinfalls, as he tallied 220 in Game 2. However, he logged 116s twice (Games 4 and 6) and adding his 162, 168, and 182, he collected only 963 pinfalls and averaged 160.50. Abalos had his best showing in Game 2 (182) and got 944 pinfalls after scoring 120, 156, 152, 170, and 159 in the five other games.

Abalos and Bea then battled for the second and last finals berth with the latter dominating the former, 192-145. Bea kept his winning ways against the favored Ang, who had a twice-to-beat advantage in the championships for topping the qualifier.

Bea, Ang, and Abalos all received trophies and cash prizes during the awards ceremony for the Budweiser-sponsored competition last Aug. 17 at SBC.

Meanwhile, other participants in the Class C tournaments were Simeon Eparwa (940), Tony Yarobwemal (903), Gigi Zapanta (899), Ryan Batac (893), Marie Candado (892), Randy Abreu (863), Lala Taitano (853), Joey Ranjo (844), and Jerry Kaneshi (681).

124 signed up for this Saturday's Docomo Classic

With just three days to go before tee off, the 4th Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic is already enjoying a bumper crop of participants with only 20 slots for the tournament remain unfilled.

"As of 5:23pm Tuesday, Aug. 27, we have 124 golfers confirmed. There are only 144 slots available for this tournament, so we can only accept 20 more golfers. The deadline to register for the tournament is tomorrow (today), Aug. 28 at 5pm," Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson wrote in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

He said of the categories, the men's C flight division has shown the most participants with 43 golfers registered. It is followed by the senior flight with 25, the men's B flight with 19, and the men's A flight with 16.

The men's championship flight so far has six entries but Nelson expects a few more to signup before the deadline. Meanwhile, 15 ladies have signed up to participate in the ladies flight.

"We have fantastic raffle prizes and three great hole-in-one prizes which has always been a trademark of the event. In addition, the on-course refreshments will include the traditional classic hotdog and watermelon stands on both the front and back nine of the golf course. With the help of our sponsors, we will keep all our participants well fed and hydrated during and after the tournament," said Nelson.

The Docomo Pacific Golf Classic will be held this coming Saturday, Aug. 31, at the Mariana Country Club. Show time for all golfers is at 7am and tee time is at 8am.

Proceeds from the 4th Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic will go to the non-profit organization Marianas Tourism Education Council.

To date, Nelson said the 2013 edition of the tournament has raised over $10,000 in cash from sponsorships alone. In-kind contributions will add another $10,000 or more in value that will be used as prizes and incidentals during the tournament. Overall, it is anticipated that after settling all tournament expenses, the net proceeds for MTEC will be $10,000 or more.

The main sponsors of the 4th Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic are First Hawaiian Bank, DFS Saipan Ltd, Mobil, McDonald's Saipan, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Hole-in-one sponsors, meanwhile, include Joeten Motors, Bank of Hawaii, and Triple J Motors. The general sponsors are Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Delta Air Lines, Marianas Visitors Authority, Pacific Islands Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Dickerson & Quinn, Kautz Glass, and DataDot Micronesia.

Entry forms for the 4th Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic are available at the Docomo Pacific store on Middle Road in Gualo Rai. Entry fees are accepted at Docomo Pacific. Golfers are encouraged to enter as soon as possible. The deadline for entries is 5pm, Aug. 28.

For more information, contact Nelson at 483-4924 or email jnelson@docomopacific.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PADRES

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earlier for the first two outs.

The Padres complemented its good defense with a solid offense in the first three innings where they scored 13 runs. The Padres were on target specifically at the top of the third when seven of their first eight batters had base hits and also reached home plate. The Padres went on to bag eight runs in the third, five of them were earned. Patrick Tenorio went 2-for-3 for the Padres, scored three runs and two RBIs.

Meanwhile, in the curtain-raiser last Monday, the Braves had a strong finish to down the Cardinals.

The game was tied after five complete innings, 4-all, when the Braves went all out in the last two to hand the Cardinals another defeat.

Ian Rogolifoi blasted a two-run double to start the Braves rally at the top of the sixth and his team got three more runs off the Cardinals' errors to take a 9-4 lead. The Cardinals, which used three pitchers in the first six innings, tapped Joe Monkeya in the last inning, hoping to bail the team out of trouble, but the Braves remained on target, getting four more hits and adding three earned runs and two off the Cardinals' miscues.

While the Braves' bats were active in the last two innings, the Cardinals were out of sync, as the first three batters were booted out in the sixth and two runners were left stranded in the last after Rogolifoi caught a fly ball from Monkeya for the last out.

PAIRE

From Page 28

ond and final leg of the goodwill tournament. Paire said Star Marianas will be providing free airfare to the club players heading to Tinian next month and time and venue of the friendly matches will be announced later.

Meanwhile, Paire held a jamboree and registration last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field to kick off it campaign in the 2013 NMIFA Fall League. The club, which is supported by Docomo Pacific, will be fielding teams in the U6, U8, U10, U12, U15, and U18 divisions of the league that will kick off next month at the various school fields on Saipan.

Paire welcomed new players and returnees at the jamboree, which ran for more than two hours and had participants joining drills and scrimmage.

MAWATI

From Page 28

Bryan Ajoste's foot was on the line as they battled for the ball at the baseline.

The lead then went up to 5, 60-55, as Mawati regained possession after a Fliptop miss and Francis Serrano converted a corner triple. Mawati went ahead further, 62-55, entering the final two minutes after Webb Guntar won a mad scramble for the ball and nailed a layup. Mawati kept its safe distance as it answered every shot from Fliptop in the closing minutes of the elimination match.

Jerome Reyes top-scored for Mawati with his 16 points, while Serrano and Ajoste chipped in 15 and 13, respectively. Chris Mizer led Fliptop, drilling 21 markers.

In the first game, Sister Market lost two key players, but managed to beat Maplas in an intense game.

Sister Market was without White Capalad and Syl Teregeyo midway in the first half and in the entire second half, forcing Jun Tabora and Cesar Bisana to step up. Capalad and Teregeyo was thrown out of the court and eventually banned from the league after a bench clearing incident in the second quarter. According to game officials, the incident started when Capalad while playing defense punched Maplas' Dennis Morales and soon players from both camps were all over the court. Some tried to pacify their teammates, while others exchanged heated words and challenged their foes to a fight. League official then managed to break the opposing camps and later also disqualified Morales and his teammates Ralph Surla and Emerson Claveria from the game. Morales was issued two technical fouls for second motion, while Surla and Claveria were ejected for coming off the bench and joining the squabble.

The emotion-filled first half went on to end in a standoff, 36-36, and remained tight in the third with Sister Market ahead by only a point, 56-55, before Bisana and Tabora gave their team more cushion and Ferdie Tobias also helped out en route to the 9-point win. Tabora drilled 11 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, while Bisana, who had 8 markers in the third, added 6 in the fourth. Tobias, who was scoreless in the first three cantos, canned back-to-back triples in the fourth frame.

First Game

Sister Market 81 – Tabora 25, Bisana 14, Jugos 8, Capalad 7, Norita 7, Santos 4, Teregeyo 3, Barrozo 2.

Maplas 72 – Mateo 16, R. Usi 14, Mendoza 12, Ocampo 8, M. Usi 5, Odicta 2, Aniciete 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-12, 36-36, 56-55, 81-72.

Second Game

Mawati 72 – Reyes 16, Serrano 15, Ajoste 13, Bahillo 9, Guntar 7, Bautista 6, Samson 2.

Fong's Fliptop 63 – Mizer 21, De Leon 12, Esteves 8, Feria 7, Namelo 7, Fleming 3.

Scoring by quarters: 11-15, 27-27, 46-43, 72-63.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	77	55	.583	_
Tampa Bay	74	55	.574	1 1/2
Baltimore	70	59	.543	5 1/2
New York	69	62	.527	7 1/2
Toronto	59	73	.447	18

Central Division

Detroit	77	54	.588	_
Cleveland	71	59	.546	5 1/2
Kansas City	66	64	.508	10 1/2
Minnesota	57	72	.442	19
Chicago	54	76	.415	22 1/2

West Division

Texas	76	55	.580	_
Oakland	73	57	.562	2 1/2
Seattle	59	71	.454	16 1/2
Los Angeles	58	71	.450	17
Houston	44	86	.338	31 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	78	52	.600	_
Washington	65	65	.500	13
Philadelphia	60	71	.458	18 1/2
New York	58	71	.450	19 1/2
Miami	49	80	.380	28Ω

Central Division

St. Louis	77	54	.588	_
Pittsburgh	76	54	.585	1/2
Cincinnati	74	58	.561	3 1/2
Milwaukee	57	73	.438	19 1/2
Chicago	55	76	.420	22

West Division

Los Angeles	77	54	.588	_
Arizona	67	63	.515	9 1/2
Colorado	62	71	.466	16
San Diego	59	72	.450	18
San Francisco	58	73	.443	19

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROP 15: Wrath of the Warriors Part 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO AND ENRICO DEL ROSARIO

Referee Keith Nabors, right, raises the arm of Trench Tech's Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter after earning a TKO win over France's Ferrid "Hurricane" Kheder in the main event in the the Rites of Passage 15: Wrath of the Warriors last Aug. 16 at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

France's Ferrid "Hurricane" Kheder tries to hold down Trench Tech's Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter.

France's Ferrid "Hurricane" Kheder uses his legs and arms to neutralize Trench Tech's Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter.

Trench Tech's Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter gains the top position over France's Ferrid "Hurricane" Kheder

Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar, right, tries to bring down Trench Tech and Spike 22's Roman "Boom" Alvarez.

Trench Tech and Spike 22's Roman "Boom" Alvarez uses a Guillotine choke to beat Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar in the first round.

Tiger Yatsui, left, connects on the face of Kevin "Big Stack" Patubo.

Kevin "Big Stack" Patubo throws a kick on Tiger Yatsui.

Kevin "Big Stack" Patubo connects on a body shot against Tiger Yatsui.

Spectators watch action inside the octagon cage.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mawati, Sister Market complete semis cast

Mawati's Webb Guntar sneaks into the defense of Fong's Fliptop's Cris Esteves, left, and Wens Namelo, right, for a layup in the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the DL Corp. caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mawati and Sister Market clinched the last two semis tickets in the 2013 DL Corp. Invitational Basketball League after prevailing in their separate playoff matches last Monday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Sister Market bagged the third semis berth after surviving a fight-marred quarterfinal game versus Maplas, 81-72, while Mawati took the fourth and final seat, following a 72-63 victory over Fong's Fliptop to join Adobo and RadioCom to the next round. Sister Market meets Adobo in tonight's first Final Four match, while Mawati faces RadioCom in the second tiff.

Mawati caught the last bus to the semifinals after getting a few breaks in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter to halt Fong's Fliptop's last rally. Fliptop moved within one, 55-56, after trailing by as much as 8 points early in the fourth, 46-54. Fliptop got points from all its starters in the fourth canto to threaten Mawati.

However, Mawati made it a 2-point game after Jason Bahillo split his technical free throws in the ensuing play. Mawati was awarded two charities off a technical foul on Chris Esteves, who argued to the referee, saying he did not touch the leather last and

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Paire FC vs Tinian in friendly games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Paire Football Club will host friendly games against Tinian players this Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Paire FC board member Derek Chambers said the visiting players are from the Tinian Premier Football Club and are in the U8 to U12 age group.

"To get ready for the upcoming soccer season Paire has planned two friendly tournaments against a soccer club from Tinian. Tinian has formed a soccer league and some of their players are coming to Saipan to have some friendly matches against Paire," Chambers said in an email to *Saipan Tribune.*

The Paire-Tinian Premier series of friendly matches on Saipan is tentatively set from 10am to 12nn and the host club is inviting its members to participate in the games.

"The Tinian players are eager and ready to test their new skills on our U8-U12 players. So let's show them what we got. We need as many U8-U12 players as possible to come out and play this Saturday," Chambers added.

After this weekend's friendly matches, Paire will head to Tinian on Sept. 7 for the sec-

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PAIRE FOOTBALL CLUB

Paire Football Club players enjoy a light moment while waiting for their turn to do a drill during the group's jamboree last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Padres, Braves top Cardinals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Padres and Braves denied the Cardinals entry to the win column of the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League.

The Padres shut out the Cardinals in a make-up game, 14-0, last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, while the Braves handed the Cards a 14-4 beating in the first game last Monday. The Padres notched their fourth victory in as many games and aimed for win No. 5 in the second match last Monday against the Tigers (1-1), while the Braves are not far behind in second place with their 3-1 record. The Cardinals dropped to a 0-3 slate.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Braves batter lets go of a high pitch during an earlier game in the 2nd Annual Triple A Youth Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Five players pitched for the Padres and that caught the Cardinals' hitter off guard. The Cardinals made only one hit off Aurel Mendiola's double at the bottom of the fifth inning and were called for six strikeouts. The rest of the Padres' defense held on, as the Cardinals missed its best opportunity to score in the third inning when three runners were left stranded after center fielder Khobby Kaipat caught a fly ball from Jeremy Demapan for the third out. The Cardinals' Austin Hocog and Joel Demapan were beaten to first

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